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Rivals press claim to power

Lebanon closer than ever to partition

BEIRUT, Sept. 24. (Agencies): Rival Muslim and Christian governments pressed their claim to hold legitimate power today, pushing the already fractured country closer than ever to formal partition.

The US embassy disclosed that it has evacuated 22 junior employees, all of them Americans, reflecting Washington's uneasiness at the political crisis, the worst in Lebanon's 45 years of independence.

The people of Beirut stripped supermarket shelves today preparing for renewed civil war violence as Lebanon's two governments struggled for power and international recognition.

The Syrian-backed government under acting Prime Minister Selim Al Hoss, a Sunni Muslim, instructed its Shiite Muslim defence minister to order Army Commander Gen. Michel Aoun, a Maronite Catholic, to quit the rival cabinet.

Aoun was appointed prime minister on Thursday, five minutes before President Amin Gemayel's 6-year term ended at midnight. He rejected the Muslim government's order today, issuing instead his six-man cabinet's first directive to civil servants.

Legal

"Government departments, public institutions and municipalities are hereby requested to abide only by the instructions of the legal government headed by Gen. Aoun as far as administrative, financial and diplomatic affairs are concerned," the directive said.

"You are also requested to refrain from taking orders from the former (Hoss) government, whose resignation had been accepted and thus lost its legitimacy."

"Otherwise, you will face legal and disciplinary prosecution," said the directive, broadcast by Christian-run radio stations.

The Hoss government said in a statement after a 2 1/2-hour session: "Defence Minister Adel Ossseiran has been authorized to send a note to the Army commander, asking to stay out of politics or face disciplinary measures."

Aoun replied: "The Hoss cabinet has no legal status." He spoke at a packed news conference held at the presidential palace in Baabda, in the Christian heartland.

"This is not so," Hoss said at a separate news conference in

West Beirut. "The presidential powers have passed to my cabinet because Gemayel had no constitutional right to form another government before he left."

Both Aoun and Hoss separately maintained they were working for the "unity" of Lebanon and for convening Parliament in an electoral session to choose a successor for Gemayel, who bowed out of office yesterday.

Three Muslim officers Gemayel had named to serve in Aoun's interim military cabinet have refused to take up their posts. Nevertheless, the general insisted his cabinet had legally

inherited Gemayel's powers and thus was the legitimate government of Lebanon.

The split has pushed the tiny Mediterranean country, devastated by 13 years of civil war, toward formal partition along sectarian lines.

Hoss became acting Prime Minister after the assassination of Sunni Prime Minister Rashid Karami in an explosion on June 1, 1987, aboard an Army helicopter flying him from north Lebanon to Beirut.

At his news conference, Hoss said Interior Minister Abdullah Rassi, the only Christian now in his government, has been deputy prime minister.

Rassi, a Greek Orthodox, is backed by Syria.

Aoun met today with envoys of four of the five permanent member states of the United Nations Security Council, seeking recognition of his cabinet.

The only envoy not to respond to the invitation was Soviet Ambassador Vassili Kolotcha.

Kolotcha, however, and the envoys of the United States, China, France and Britain, held

Explosion rocks West Beirut

BEIRUT, Sept. 24. (Reuters): An explosion rocked West Beirut today, witnesses said.

They said the explosion took place near the Bristol Hotel in the Hamra commercial district.

The hotel is a base for Syrian military intelligence officers and headquarters for pro-Syrian Lebanese politicians.

There were no immediate details about the explosion or reports of casualties. Ambulance sirens were heard wailing across the capital.

Syrian troops immediately cordoned off the area and fired in the air to prevent people approaching the site and facilitate access for rescue teams, the witnesses said.

Kidnapped Kuwaiti businessman freed in UK police raid

NORTHAMPTON, Sept. 24. (AP): A kidnapped Kuwaiti millionaire, rescued by police after a four-day ordeal, said today that he had thought he was going to die and owed his life to the local police force.

"Thank you is just a small word," said 38-year-old businessman Waleed Al Humaidhi, "but to me, today, it has a world of meaning."

Scotland Yard and Northamptonshire police, acting on a tip, freed Humaidhi last night from a north London house and said they were questioning two Belgians, a 41-year-old woman and a 31-year-old man, at police stations in Northampton.

Police said they were searching for a 41-year-old Belgian man who might have fled to Spain.

Northamptonshire chief constable David O'Dowd said the demanded £1 million (\$1.6 million) ransom had not been paid.

At Northamptonshire police headquarters today, Humaidhi read a statement to reporters describing some of his feelings about the events following his abduction on Monday night from a cottage in the village of Brixworth, Northamptonshire, 65 miles north of London.

"There were many occasions during the past four days when I thought I would die, and I would like to begin by saying that I owe my life to the Northampton police," he said.

"At the time I was in captivity it was the thought that the British police would be taking the appropriate action that kept me going."

(Continued on Page 2)

Johnson shatters his own record to win 100m gold

SEOUL, Sept. 24. (Reuters): World champion Ben Johnson powered to victory in the Olympic 100 metres final ahead of arch-rival Carl Lewis and shattered his own record today.

The Canadian's victory ended Lewis' bid to defend all four titles he won at the 1984 Los Angeles Games.

The world record holder clocked 9.79 seconds — four hundredths of a second inside his old record — as he sped across the line. Lewis was second in 9.92 and Britain's Linford Christie third in 9.97 — both personal bests.

It was Johnson's seventh victory over Lewis in 16 confrontations between the pair since 1980.

Defending

He clocked the old world record of 9.83 seconds when he beat the American defending champion at the Rome world championships last year.

Johnson won a bronze behind Lewis in Los Angeles.

Johnson exploded from his starting blocks in lane six and was never threatened.

He was five metres clear at midway and Lewis, running in lane three, glanced across around the 60-metre point in apparent surprise at his rival's blistering burst.



Ben Johnson raises his arm in triumph as he crosses the finish line ahead of Carl Lewis. (Reuters wirephoto)

'No change in Pakistan election schedule'

By Ashraf Shad

HIGHLY placed sources in Islamabad told Arab Times in a telephone conversation that the elections will definitely be held on Nov 16 as scheduled and will not be postponed as rumoured in certain quarters.

The elections will be held on party-basis and will be under judicial supervision, the sources added.

Rumours were widely believed after the US ambassador in Pakistan told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in Washington last week that there is a possibility of changing the date of elections in Pakistan.

Changes

A source in Islamabad told Arab Times that the Supreme Court will give its decision in the first week of October on a petition filed by opposition leader Benazir Bhutto regarding the polls on party basis. The Pakistani government is not expected to contest the petition in court.

Sources also predicted some changes in the federal and the provincial governments. Our correspondent from Lahore in his despatch quoted reliable

sources as saying that Foreign Minister Sahibzada Yaqoob Ali Khan might take the oath as the caretaker Prime Minister of Pakistan.

Meanwhile, according to a BBC radio report, President Ghulam Ishaq Khan has rejected the demand of the opposition parties to sack the federal and provincial caretaker governments.

These governments were established by the late President Zia-ul-Haq after he sacked Junjo's government and dissolved the national and provincial assemblies in May this year.

Ghulam Ishaq Khan has told reporters in Islamabad that elections will be held in time and on an impartial basis. He was also quoted as saying that governments will not be allowed to use their offices in the elections.

Opposition parties in Pakistan are demanding the dissolution of caretaker governments stating that important elections could not be held as long as these governments remain in power.

All four caretaker chief ministers of the provinces are together in a faction of Muslim League, which will be participating in the forthcoming elections with full force.

Mubarak in London for Mideast talks

LONDON, Sept. 24. (Reuters): Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak arrived from Belgrade today on the second leg of a European tour to seek softer credit terms and review the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Diplomats said policy on the PLO and Egypt's negotiations with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) over its \$43 billion foreign debt would be key points in his three-day visit.

Mubarak planned tomorrow to meet separately Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe and Jordan's King Hussein, who is in London. Mubarak and Hussein are committed to policy coordination and have met several times this year.

Welcome

Mubarak will receive a warm welcome from Thatcher, who approved of his moderate stand in the Middle East, diplomats said. He last paid her a visit here in January.

Mubarak can also expect a sympathetic ear regarding his country's economic problems, despite a deadlock in IMF talks, British officials said.

The IMF wants Egypt to cut its budget deficit and raise prices of state-subsidised food and fuel.

Border talks

NEW DELHI, Sept. 24. (AP): Pakistan and India ended a fourth round of border talks today and agreed to meet again in Islamabad early next year.

The talks began yesterday and focused on the 80-kilometre Siachen glacier, which both countries claim.

A statement issued by Indian Defence Secretary T.N. Sheshan and his Pakistani counterpart, Syed Uljal Haider Zaidi, described the discussions as "frank and friendly", but did not elaborate.

See Page 15

Amir in New York for UN debate

NEW YORK, Sept. 24. (KUNA): HH the Amir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah arrived here on Friday to attend the United Nations General Assembly debate which opens on Monday.

The Amir's jet, Al Jaberiya, touched down at John F. Kennedy International Airport.

He was greeted by the United Nations chief of protocol, Undersecretary-General Ali Teymour, and Kuwait's UN Ambassador Mohammad Abulhasan.

The Amir was introduced to prominent personalities participating in a brief airport reception, including the representative of President Reagan, the US Ambassador to the UN Vernon Walters.

"The visit of His Highness is an extremely important one. His figure and his personality are respected throughout the Muslim world and I am happy that I have been designated to come out here on behalf of the US government as a cabinet officer to greet His Highness," Walters said.

The Amir was also cheered by some 250 Kuwaiti students from New York and nearby states who lined up near the plane waving Kuwaiti flags.

The Amir's motorcade then left the airport for a nearly one-

hour drive to the residence in midtown Manhattan.

The highlight of the Amir's visit, his first at the United Nations, is his address next Wednesday to the 159-member General Assembly.

The Amir arrived here from Paris where he met with French President Francois Mitterrand and Premier Michel Rocard.

The ten-member official delegation includes Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed Al Jaber.

No other official functions were scheduled on the Amir's first day.

Kidnapped Kuwaiti businessman freed in UK police raid

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(Continued on Page 2)

Hirohito shows signs of slight improvement

TOKYO, Sept. 24. (Reuters): Emperor Hirohito, in critical condition after collapsing today, showed signs of slight improvement this evening after taking a turn for the worse earlier in the day, the Imperial Household Agency said.

An agency spokesman said the 87-year-old emperor's fever had fallen and his condition had slightly improved.

But Hirohito during the evening received his third blood transfusion of the day as well as more anti-bleeding medication, the spokesman said.

The emperor has now had eight blood transfusions since Monday when he vomited blood in his sleep.

Dropped

The spokesman said the emperor's fever dropped to 37.9 Centigrade (99.1 Fahrenheit) at 7 pm (1000 GMT) from the afternoon's 39.2°C (102.5°F), the highest since Monday.

Hirohito's pulse quickened to 117 per minute in the afternoon but later slowed to 102, the spokesman said.

Because of the emperor's condition, Foreign Minister Sosuke Uno has cancelled his plans to leave for New York tomorrow to attend the United Nations General Assembly session and a subsequent trip to Pakistan.

Crowds outside the gates of the moated imperial palace in central Tokyo swelled as word of his critical condition spread earlier today.

Thousands spurned umbrellas as they gathered in pouring rain to express hope for the recovery of the man millions have revered since he ascended the Japanese throne 62 years ago.

Gunboat sinks rubber dinghy

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Sept. 24. (AP): An Israeli gunboat on patrol off south Lebanon sank a rubber dinghy yesterday, killing three Palestinian commandos aboard, the Army command announced.

The commandos were en route to attack Israeli targets when they were killed, said a military source. The three were members of PLO's Fatah faction headed by Yasser Arafat, said the source, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The infiltration attempt, the third this year by sea, came a day after Israeli war planes attacked Palestinian bases east of the South Lebanese port city of Sidon. The planes hit the refugee camp Mieh Mieh, wounding at least five people.

Plastic bullet kills Palestinian girl

anti-Israel protests in the territories. Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin this week said he had eased the rules for opening fire with the bullets, which are lethal below a range of 70 metres (yards).

Clashes broke out in the cities and towns of the occupied West Bank as youths erected barricades and threw stones in Ramallah, Hebron, Tulikarem and Bethlehem.

Troops shot and wounded two Palestinians, aged 19 and 21, in clashes with demonstrators in Tulikarem town. Hospital officials reported. The Army said troops injured one Palestinian during anti-Israel demonstrations.

In Hebron, seven Palestinians

West Bank clashes flare up

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Sept. 24. (Reuters): A 13-year-old Palestinian girl died after she was hit by a plastic bullet and clashes erupted between stone-throwing youths and soldiers throughout the West Bank, Palestinians and hospital officials said today.

Nahel Nu'man, shot in the head by troops in Amari refugee camp on Sept 17, died overnight, officials at Jerusalem's Maqasid Hospital said.

Her death brought the toll in a nine-month-old Palestinian uprising against Israeli military rule in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip to at least 280 Palestinians, as well as six Israelis.

The Army this month introduced plastic bullets as part of a renewed offensive against

Summer time

NICOSIA, Sept. 24. (AP): Clocks will be moved back one hour at midnight today, ending summer time in Cyprus.

With that, Cyprus local time will be two hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time.

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پاکستان میں انتخابات

- پاکستان میں انتخابات
- جماعتی بنیادوں پر ہو گئے
- صاحبزادہ یعقوب کو وزیر اعظم بنا یا جا رہا ہے
- اعلیٰ حضرت امیر کو ت
- نیرنگ بچے کے
- پاکستان میں ہجران
- حکومتیں طرف نہیں ہو گئی
- لندن میں کویتی تاجر کا
- اغواء اور رہائی
- بانی میں پاکستان کو آسٹریلیا
- نے شکست دیدی
- عبداللہ ملک کی نئی کتاب پر
- تبصرہ

WEATHER

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State of sea: slight
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Low water: 5.00 am, 6.00 pm
Sunrise: 5.38 am
Sunset: 5.41 pm
Maximum temperature recorded: Kuwait: 42°C 108°F
Ahmad: 36°C 97°F
Falka: 36°C 97°F
Maximum temperature expected: Kuwait: 42°C 108°F
Ahmad: 36°C 97°F
Falka: 36°C 97°F
Maximum humidity recorded: Kuwait: 19 per cent
Ahmad: 43 per cent
Falka: 40 per cent
Maximum humidity expected: Kuwait: 20 per cent
Ahmad: 40 per cent
Falka: 40 per cent

INTERNATIONAL

Help to curb abuse of diplomatic privilege: UK

LONDON, Sept 24, (AP): A high-ranking government official summoned 10 senior foreign diplomats to his office yesterday and appealed for their help in curbing a recent string of abuses of diplomatic privilege.

The meeting called by Foreign Office Minister Timothy Eggar follows the expulsion of seven diplomats in the past month for offences ranging from spying to overuse of parking tickets.

"I went out of my way to say we are looking for their help and advice as to how we should handle what is a common problem," Eggar told reporters after the 90-minute meeting, which he called "constructive and friendly."

Concerned
He said, "the vast majority of diplomats are extremely well-behaved and contribute extremely constructively to good relations between this country and other countries."

"Everybody is concerned that the activities of the very small minority should damage the image of the diplomatic corps as a whole."

The 10 foreign diplomats summoned to the Foreign Office for the meeting were senior-ranking envoys chosen from a geographical spread and none was from countries involved in the recent expulsions.

Michael Deaver

WASHINGTON, Sept 24, (Reuters): Former top White House aide Michael Deaver has been spared a jail sentence for a perjury conviction in a decision hailed by President Reagan but condemned as too lenient by congressional critics.

Reagan repeated his belief that Deaver, convicted of lying to Congress about his lobbying activities, did not break any laws. But a leading Democrat in Congress attacked as too lenient the sentence handed down yesterday that placed Deaver on three years probation and fined him \$100,000.

Accusation denied

MANILA, Sept 24, (AP): President Corason Aquino's national security adviser today flatly denied charges he acted improperly by depositing funds into his own account from a US company digging for buried treasure.

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Air show cancelled

Two crewmen killed in Abingdon jet crash

ABINGDON, Sept 24, (AP): A one-day air show today was cancelled after the two-man crew of a Royal Air Force F-4 Phantom fighter-bomber died when their US-made jet crashed on a runway and burst into flames at rehearsals yesterday.

A board of inquiry was convened shortly after the crash at the RAF base at Abingdon 55 miles (88 kilometres) west of London, said an RAF spokesman, Flight Lt. Ray James.

Training
The names of the men, both described as experienced fliers, were not immediately released.

Witnesses said the high-speed Phantom appeared to stall during a loop-the-loop manoeuvre at about 600 feet (183 metres).

"He just fell out of the sky and there was a great big explosion and a ball of flame," said Jeanne Harris, whose farm borders the airfield.

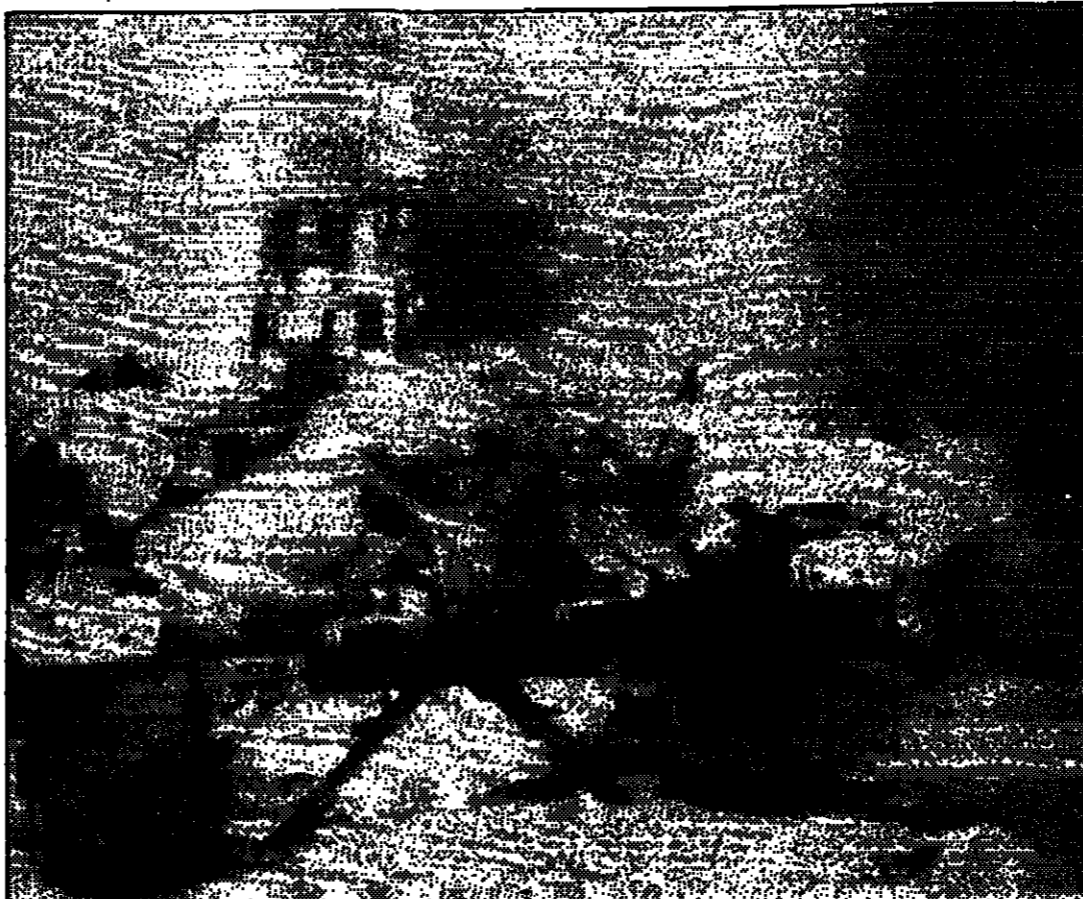
James said the crewmen had been training for a "routine display flight." No crowds were present at yesterday's rehearsals for the show.

"A detailed investigation will be necessary and the wreckage cannot be moved before examination by members of the board of inquiry. Because of this, and the extra burdens of staff at RAF Abingdon, the air show cannot now take place," James added.

The show was to have featured 75 aircraft.
Air shows have come under scrutiny since three Italian stunt planes collided on Aug 28 while performing for thousands of spectators at Ramstein US air base in West Germany, killing 67 people.

Careered
Earlier yesterday, a twin-engine US Navy jet careered off the runway at the Abingdon base and crashed through a fence on to a road, the Ministry of Defence said. Authorities closed the road until the jet was removed. Nobody was reported injured in that incident.

A ministry spokesman said the two incidents at Abingdon yesterday were unrelated. He did not say whether the US plane had been scheduled to participate in the show.



An aerial view of the Ocean Odyssey which erupted in flames after a pocket of natural gas bubbled to the surface. (Reuters wirephoto)

North Sea oil platform still burning

Rescuers call off search for lone missing worker

ABERDEEN, Scotland, Sept 24, (AP): Rescuers called off a search yesterday for a lone worker missing after fiery explosions rocked up a North Sea oil platform and continued to burn late into the evening, the Coast Guard reported.

"The surface search for the missing person has been completed unsuccessfully," said Aberdeen Coast Guard spokesman Dave Lingard. "There will be no further surface or aerial search."

Radio operator Timothy Williams, 25, of Kent, England, was the sole person missing after the explosions and fire struck the semi-submersible drilling rig Ocean Odyssey about 138 miles (220 kilometres) east of Aberdeen about 1145 GMT on Thursday.

Survivors said the first blast occurred in a module designed to control highly pressurized gas seeping from the exploration oil shaft. The second ignited a bub-

ble of natural gas that had surged to the surface, turning the sea beneath the rig into a field of flame.

British television reports yesterday said Williams stayed behind to radio distress signals as 66 other workers aboard the rig escaped in lifeboats or jumped into the sea.

The workers later were picked up by helicopters. Three were treated for shock and inhaling seawater.

Red-hot metal kept small fires burning yesterday aboard the Ocean Odyssey. The Grampian Fire Brigade sprayed water on the rig from two support vessels to make it safe for rescue workers to search it in case Williams might still be aboard.

"There is some possibility he may be alive, but we just don't know," said Terry Dallas, planning director for Arco British Ltd., which had chartered the 5-year-old platform to explore for new oil deposits.

Boy testifies he witnessed gang rape

SAN DIEGO, Texas, Sept 24, (AP): A 12-year-old boy testified yesterday that he saw a group of men shining lights on a struggling woman and taking turns raping her.

"She was screaming and crying," said the boy, a prosecution witness in the trial of Orlando Garza. "She was kicking. They were taking turns," the boy said.

Garza, 23, is the first of 10 men charged in the case to stand trial. He is accused of sexual assault. Garza is to stand trial later on another charge in the case, aggravated kidnapping.

Six of the 10 men are accused of sexually assaulting and kidnapping the woman. Three are charged only with sexual assault. One is accused only of kidnapping.

Prosecution
After the boy's testimony, the prosecution rested its case.

The sexual-assault cases were set for individual trials, while the kidnapping cases will be tried in groups.

The woman has told authorities that on the night of March 26 to 27, she was abducted and raped over a period of several hours by as many as 23 men.

The woman testified on Thursday that Garza was one of her attackers and that he also had raped her at her house on March 23.

The woman and the boy have moved from the area because of alleged harassment.

Soviet troops patrol Armenian capital

MOSCOW, Sept 24, (Reuters): Soviet troops patrolled the Armenian capital Yerevan today and armoured troop carriers were stationed at key points after a giant rally over the disputed region of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Regular Army units and Interior Ministry troops moved through the streets, local officials told Reuters by telephone.

But the troops stayed away from Opera Square, the focal point of demonstrations since the unrest over Nagorno-Karabakh began in February, despite another huge gathering there — estimated at more than 100,000 — last evening.

Soviet Radio and the official news agency Tass have blamed the "Karabakh Committee," an unofficial body set up to coordinate the Armenian campaign for the transfer of Nagorno-Karabakh from Azerbaijan for the worsening situation.

Accused
The radio yesterday accused the committee of calling for work stoppages, rallies and hunger strikes and warned of unspecified additional measures to maintain order. Tass said irresponsible elements were attempting to stir up trouble.

An official at Yerevan Radio said today that so far the authorities had not attempted to intervene in the protests. "I have heard no reports of arrests or incidents," he said.

A spokesman at the Soviet news agency Novosti in Yerevan told Reuters today that the President of the Armenian Republic, the Supreme Soviet, had passed a resolution the previous day calling for firm action to maintain order.

"It called on the city council and law and order authorities to take firm action to guarantee public order," he said. The resolution had also demanded an

end to strikes and action against "the violators of state and labour discipline."

Foreign analysts said the resolution and the media campaign against the Karabakh Committee suggested that direct action against people considered at the centre of unrest was imminent.

At the same time, the Presidium had appealed to the authorities in Moscow to speed up the implementation of the July Kremlin ruling on Nagorno-Karabakh, which called for boosting the region's economy and Armenian cultural heritage.

It urged the Soviet and Azerbaijani authorities to give a guarantee for the safety of the Armenian population of Azerbaijan, offering in turn to do the same for Azerbaijanis living in Armenian territory, according to the spokesman.

Running
He said Yerevan was quite today with public transport running. "I can't say if there have been any more meetings, but (there have been) none to my knowledge," he said.

The spokesman dismissed reports that some half a million people had attended yesterday's demonstration in Opera Square. "That's just not realistic. The square and adjoining streets could hold 200,000 at most, packed shoulder to shoulder."

Asked about Nagorno-Karabakh itself, which could not be reached by telephone from Moscow today, the spokesman said he understood the situation there to be under control.

The latest Yerevan unrest flared after an Armenian died in ethnic clashes last Sunday in Nagorno-Karabakh. Nearly 50 people were hurt when Azerbaijanis and Armenians fought with guns and knives in Khadzhal village.

Lebanon closer than ever to partition

(Continued from Page 1)

separate meetings yesterday with Hoss in West Beirut.

The Soviet ambassador's action indicated Moscow disapproved of the general's cabinet.

The other diplomats have not committed their governments to recognising either cabinet and told reporters after separate meetings with Aoun that their countries were concerned with ways of saving something of Lebanon's unity.

Chadli Klibi, Secretary-General of the Arab League, issued a statement in Tunis calling on the Lebanese to reject partition and said Israel was the only beneficiary of a partitioned Lebanon.

The new US Ambassador to Lebanon, John McCarthy, arrived by helicopter from Cyprus to replace John Kelly, who left on Sept 16, an embassy official said. Kelly was reported suffering from a heart ailment.

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, also dis-

closed that some members of embassy staff were evacuated on Thursday, when it became obvious that Lebanon was plunging into turmoil because of Parliament's failure to elect a successor for Gen Aylaw.

"We drew down 22 of the low-level employees. They are not key figures," he said.

Decision
They were flown to Larnaca, Cyprus, by three US Navy helicopters, he added.

He said American Charge d'Affaires Daniel Simpson made the evacuation decision as a "prudent precautionary measure."

The official would not say how many American employees were left in Lebanon, but said the senior staff was not leaving the embassy in East Beirut's Christian suburb of Aukar.

Asked whether the evacuees would return, he said: "It all depends on developments this weekend. If things go smoothly, they will be back next week."

Syria sacks 21 officials for corruption

DAMASCUS, Sept 24, (Reuters): The Syrian government has dismissed 21 more officials for corruption or dishonesty, the official Syrian news agency SANA reported today.

They included three officials at the Central Bank's branch in Aleppo, Syria's second largest city. Their rank was not disclosed.

Sudanese offer

ABU DHABI, Sept 24, (Reuters): Sudan is willing to mediate between Libya and Chad to improve their strained relations, Sudanese Foreign Minister Hussein Abu Saleh was quoted as saying today.

Al Itihad newspaper quoted him as saying Chadian officials would visit Khartoum next week to discuss how to reach "a formula to achieve stability in the region."

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Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, (centre), gestures while talking with President Reagan, (left), and Secretary of State George Shultz look on. (Reuter wirephoto)

Blast at Turkish arms depot hurts 28

DIYARBAKIR, Turkey, Sept. 24. (Reuter): Exploding ammunition at an Army barracks injured 28 people and shattered windows in thousands of houses in southeast Turkey, a senior local official said today.

Seven soldiers and 21 civilians were injured in the blast, caused by a fire at Sanliurfa barracks, near the Syrian border.

"Last night's explosion was heard all over town. Everyone was in great panic. Windows in 3,000 to 4,000 homes were broken," Alpaslan Karacan, a Governor of Sanliurfa, said.

"A fire started for unknown reasons 30 minutes before the explosion. The fact that the fire started before the blast rules out sabotage," Karacan told reporters.

Many soldiers stationed at the barracks, in the centre of Sanliurfa, home to 200,000 people, were on routine exercise in surrounding countryside at the time.

Sanliurfa, 55 km north of the Syrian frontier, is in an area where autonomy-seeking Kurdish rebels have been active for four years.

Superpower talks make 'progress'

WASHINGTON, Sept. 24. (AP): The United States and the Soviet Union ended two days of high-level talks with both sides reporting progress in some areas, stalemate in others and a determination to keep negotiating during the winding months of President Ronald Reagan's term.

There was a mixed outcome on arms control, forward movement on human rights and continuing disagreement over two contentious regional issues — Afghanistan and Nicaragua.

Busy

Summing up the positive aspects of the discussions at an evening news conference, Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze said, "many practical results will continue to be felt in the remaining months of the administration."

US Secretary of State George Shultz told reporters earlier at the White House there was a mutual commitment to "keep this process moving... and determination to resolve problems in so far as we possibly can."

And Reagan, asked whether there was sufficient time remaining in his administration to strike another arms-control deal with the Soviets, replied, "I've got four months to go. I'm not going to sit around. I'm going to stay busy."

But Shultz said it was "quite impossible" a new treaty to reduce strategic nuclear weapons by the mutually agreed 50 per cent target could be wrapped up before Reagan's term ends in January.

Shevardnadze was somewhat more upbeat, saying the two sides had instructed their delegations to try to work out an interim agreement to place ceilings on US and Soviet long-range nuclear warheads.

"This may be possible," he said through an interpreter. "It will require work, but one cannot be definite now."

Shultz and Shevardnadze agreed there was little reason to suggest... another Soviet-American summit may be held before Reagan's term ends. Shevardnadze said the subject didn't even arise.

Opposition leaders form united front

Burmese junta pledge to quit soon

RANGOON, Sept. 24. (Reuter): Burma's military leaders have promised to give up power soon, saying they want people to be loyal to whichever government wins general elections.

The six-day-old Army administration made its appeal as opposition leaders announced formation of a united front to continue their struggle for democracy.

The opposition has so far refused to participate in elections that generals who seized power on Sept. 18 have pledged to stage within three months.

General Saw Maung, leader of what dissidents and diplomats labelled a false coup aimed at keeping veteran socialist authoritarians in control, said in a radio speech the military would not stay in office for long.

Referring to his nine-member cabinet, he said: "The fact that we have formed a government with very few people is evidence that we have absolutely no desire

to hold on to state power for a prolonged period."

The new ministers have been meeting senior staff members of their ministries in the last few days to get government running again in the South-East Asian country, which gained its independence from Britain in 1948.

Unity

Radio Rangoon said Information and Culture Minister Major General Phone Myint at a meeting yesterday urged people to unite or else they would "again become slaves of another country."

He said workers should discharge their duties to the state with loyalty for whichever government came to power.

Opposition leaders, after a meeting yesterday, agreed to form an alliance for concerted peaceful mass action for an interim government and fair elections.

They urged the Army to give

an accounting of civilians killed, release jailed protesters and negotiate the formation of an interim government to lead Burma back to democracy.

The military government says troops trying to end popular resistance to the takeover have killed about 200 people, but diplomats and doctors put the number at closer to 1,000.

Brutality

Rangoon has become a brutal place where even Red Cross volunteers are shot by soldiers since the Army seized power, the Dutch Ambassador to Burma said yesterday.

"It is a general picture of brutality," Peter van Walsum told Reuters after returning here from Rangoon.

"Red Cross workers and doctors attempting to rescue the wounded were being intentionally shot at by soldiers," he said.

The military government has said about 200 people, described as "destructive elements," have

been killed this week as it moved to enforce a curfew and a ban on gatherings of five or more people.

Van Walsum, who is the Netherlands' accredited representative in both Thailand and Burma, said the Army moved to occupy Rangoon shortly after the Sunday afternoon announcement that it was taking over.

On Monday morning the serious violence started.

He said the first major incident was in front of the US Embassy, when soldiers opened fire from rooftops on youthful demonstrators. Two were killed outright and others left bleeding in the streets as gunfire kept would-be rescuers at bay.

There were similar incidents in other areas of the capital's main business district.

"It was quite brutal and it was quite unprovoked and there is no doubt that unarmed people were shot without any warning on that occasion," he said.

Withdrawal of defamation bill a victory, says press

NEW DELHI, Sept. 24. (AP): The Indian press hailed the withdrawal of a bill seeking to provide stricter punishment for defamation as a major victory for democracy.

Leading daily newspapers in New Delhi carried front page editorials commending the withdrawal of the bill, which had been denounced by journalists, jurists and opposition politicians as an attempt at censorship.

"The government... must have realised the folly of making an attempt to steal through parliament a piece of legislation that sought to deny 800 million people the right of expression, forgetting that laws not accepted by the people are not worth the paper they are written on," said The Hindustan Times, a normally pro-establishment newspaper, in a rare front-page comment.

"The moral is that the rulers should not take the people for granted. Essentially, it is a triumph of the spirit of democracy and freedom," it said.

The Times of India, also pro-government, called the withdrawal "a victory for journalists who have seldom been as united as on the issue of the defamation bill."

Good sense

"The Prime Minister, on his part, has shown good sense in bowing to the opposition, which was by no means confined to the journalistic community," it said.

Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi announced Thursday that the bill would not be made into law, although it was passed Aug. 30 by the decision-making lower house of parliament. The introduction of the bill in the upper house was stalled after strong protests by newspapers, which called the measure "draconian and an assault on the freedom of the press."

Rajiv had said he would set up a seven-member ministerial committee to study the criticism before continuing with the legislation. But journalists refused to co-operate with the committee, demanding an unconditional withdrawal of the measure.

On Sept. 6, most newspapers in the country observed a strike in a gesture of opposition to the bill.

4 Pakistanis die in video dispute

KARACHI, Sept. 24. (Reuter): At least four Pakistanis were killed and 14 injured in Karachi on Friday in a gunbattle between rival video cassette shop owners, police said.

Police opened fire and used tear gas to break up the fighting that erupted after a 10-day dispute between the rival owners and their supporters.

Eighteen people were arrested. A bus, a minibus, and one of the video shops were set on fire, police said.

Among the 14 injured were three police officers and one of the four dead was a 35-year-old woman. Other victims were mainly local people caught up in the fighting.

Residents said an armed gang from one side set the rival shop on fire but were chased off. They returned later with reinforcements and a pitched battle ensued.

Later, the rival gangs again attacked each others' premises. When police arrived to break up the fighting, the gunmen turned their fire on the police, injuring three.

Video cassette hire shops are booming business in Pakistan, where the state-run television strictly avoids any entertainment which might be considered "un-Islamic" by religious leaders.

Since the start of the guerrilla war in neighbouring Afghanistan nine years ago, automatic weapons have become readily available on the Karachi black market.

Both Koreas to address UN General Assembly

UNITED NATIONS, Sept. 24. (AP): A Korean war of words in the General Assembly has been averted through deft diplomacy, and envoys from both the North and South said they are pleased with the compromise.

The United States, Japan and other nations sponsored a resolution to have the South speak to the assembly on the 40th anniversary of the founding of its government.

The Soviet bloc and socialist countries retaliated with a proposal that the North speak on peace and reunification of the peninsula.

The rhetoric promised to be ugly if both resolutions were adopted and the two Koreas and their allies took to the floor of the General Assembly.

But on Friday, a plenary meeting of the General Assembly adopted a compromise that merged both proposals, and will have the North and South speak on reunification and their hopes for peace.

"We think that the crisis has been overcome," Kang Sok Ju, North Korea's Deputy Foreign Minister, told the Associated Press.

"We have no objection to the North coming to speak to the United Nations," said a spokesman for South Korea's Observer mission, Jong Han-Suh.

Chance

"This will give South and North Korea a chance to ease tensions and establish peace on the Korean peninsula," Jong said. "This will be constructive and productive in solving inter-Korean problems."

Both Koreas have permanent observer status at the United Nations. They cannot vote in the General Assembly or speak without an invitation.

The original proposal to observe the founding of South Korea's government was "aimed at creating an international environment for the creation of two Koreas," said Kang, who is in New York for the 43rd General Assembly. The assembly, which began on Tuesday, is to run until mid-December.

North Korea opposes any hint

that the division of the peninsula, dating to the end of World War II, may be permanent.

Kang said he believed the North and South might deliver their addresses in late October or early November. The details will be worked out by a General Assembly committee.

South Korea floated the original proposal as a way of calling attention to the fact that it is not a full voting member of the United Nations, despite its status as a major regional economic power and host of the Olympic Games, diplomats have said.

Train crash

VOIRON, France, Sept. 24. (UPI): A man who was a passenger aboard the French TGV high-speed train that crashed into a truck on a level crossing in the Alps died of his injuries today, hospital sources said.

They identified the man as Jean-Pierre Petit, 42. The other fatality in the crash yesterday was the driver of the train, who was killed instantly.

Israel will be ready to quit W. Bank and Gaza, says Peres

PARIS, Sept. 24. (UPI): Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said he would be ready to renounce the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip and parts of the West Bank where there is a "clear majority" of Arabs in the population.

Speaking after a meeting with French President Francois Mitterrand, Peres said he would "ask Israeli electors for permission to enter into negotiations on this point."

"Once we have reached an agreement, we will organise a national referendum," the Israeli Labour Party leader said. "The hope for peace exists," he added.

Peres said that he is "ready to pull out of Gaza completely as well as from parts of the West Bank where there is a clear majority of Arabs."

Peres met with Mitterrand along with Israeli Ambassador to France Ovadia Soffer. France

has sought a more active role in the Arab-Israeli conflict recently.

Last week French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas met with Palestine Liberation Organisation leader Yasser Arafat at the European Parliament in Strasbourg over strong opposition from French Jewish groups.

No change

Peres said Friday that "nobody gained from this visit. The world remains the same before and after Arafat at Strasbourg."

Also Friday, Peres met with French Prime Minister Michel Rocard.

The head of the Arab League in France, Hamadi Essid, issued a statement Friday saying Peres' visit to Paris serves no useful purpose "as long as Israel pursues its pitiless repression against the Palestinian people."

Meanwhile Arafat said he was inviting Israel "from a position of strength" to hold negotiations with the Palestine Liberation Organisation under an international umbrella to conclude the "peace of brave men."

In an interview screened by Egyptian Television last night, Arafat said the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories will continue until victory, until the Palestinian peace or the peace of brave men is realised.

Interviewed during his visit to Cairo on Wednesday, Arafat said the PLO went through a "dark tunnel" following the 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon. "But at the end of the tunnel, I could see the walls and minarets of Jerusalem," he said.

"Now I say that we came through the bottleneck, not only us but the entire Arab region," Arafat said.

Ozal's future hangs on referendum

ANKARA, Sept. 24. (AP): A referendum to move up the date of nation-wide municipal elections has turned into a fierce contest that could determine the political future of Premier Turgut Ozal.

Turkey's 26 million voters go to the polls tomorrow to cast white coloured "yes" ballots or brown ones for "no" on a constitutional amendment adopted in parliament with the votes of Ozal's Motherland Party.

If approved, the measure would move up the date of municipal elections from March 1989 to Nov. 23, 1988 and open the road to holding general elections and local polls at the same time or close together in the future.

Ozal has threatened to quit if voters overwhelmingly reject the amendment.

Confidence

The opposition has worked to turn the referendum into a vote of confidence on Ozal's policies, hoping Turks will use the vote to vent their anger at the high inflation, currently running at 78 per cent.

Public opinion polls show the amendment being defeated. The question is by what margin it will go down.

Ozal has not said how much is the acceptable support that will dissuade him from resigning. Most political observers believe he is aiming at 36 per cent, the percentage his Motherland Party rolled to win the 1987 general elections.

Some analysts believe the 61-year-old Premier would find satisfactory even 33 per cent, which in a general election would be enough to capture a parliamentary majority under Turkey's electoral system favouring the largest party.

Opposition leaders, Erdal Inonu of the Social Democrat Populist Party and former Premier Suleyman Demirel who leads the True Path Party, insist that Ozal should resign unless his proposal receives over 50 per cent of the votes.

Dalai Lama willing for China talks

NEW DELHI, Sept. 24. (AP): The Dalai Lama, the Tibetan religious leader who heads the resistance against Chinese rule in Tibet, is willing to hold talks with Beijing "despite different views and stands on many issues," his office announced.

The announcement came after the Chinese embassy in New Delhi offered to hold talks with the Dalai Lama at any venue of his choice, if he dropped the demand for Tibetan independence.

The Tibetan statement, issued by the bureau of the Dalai Lama in New Delhi, said the only reasonable basis for solving the issue was a statement by the Dalai Lama at the European Parliament in Strasbourg, France, in June, in which he had called for "a self-governing democratic entity" in Tibet "in association with the People's Republic of China."

That speech marked the first time the Dalai Lama acknowledged that China could handle Tibet's foreign policy and maintain troops on Tibetan soil.

But the Chinese statement said the Strasbourg speech could not be considered as the basis for the talks "because it has not at all relinquished the concept of the independence of Tibet."

Afghan air attack kills 5 Pakistanis

ISLAMABAD, Sept. 24. (UPI): The government said Afghan warplanes bombed villages deep inside Pakistan yesterday, killing five people and injuring five others in the fourth such raid this month.

Meanwhile, Kabul sharpened its verbal attacks on Islamabad, accusing it of expanding its direct participation in Afghan rebel combat operations and expressing fears it plans to hit "military and economic targets inside Afghanistan."

The charges came three days after the opening of the UN General Assembly in New York, which is to discuss implementation of the April 14 Geneva accords on Afghanistan.

Under the UN-mediated settlement, Moscow on May 15 began a scheduled nine-month withdrawal of its 100,300 troops and met an Aug. 15 deadline for a 50 per cent reduction. The accords also call for non-interference in each others' affairs by Kabul and Islamabad.

The agreement was guaranteed by the Soviet Union, which invaded Afghanistan in December 1979, and the United States.

Government-run television and officials in Dir district of Pakistan's North West Frontier Province said 16 Afghan planes streaked 35 to 40 miles (55 to 65 km) inside Pakistan just before noon.

Raid

The aircraft dropped at least eight bombs on two villages before being chased back across the border by Pakistani jetfighters, the officials and the television said. They said a 55-year-old man and four children were killed and five other people injured.

The incident brought to eight dead and 37 injured the casualty toll claimed by Islamabad in four fatal air raids this month by Afghanistan. Pakistan said it shot down an Afghan jetfighter in one of the strikes.

Islamabad has charged Kabul with more than 350 air and ground violations of its territory that have killed more than 50 people since the May 15 implementation of the Geneva accords.



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Work together to end human rights violations: Abulhassan

UNITED NATIONS, Sept 24, (KUNA): The newly elected chairman of the General Assembly's Social Committee, Mohammad A. Abulhassan of Kuwait, called yesterday on governments to work together to end oppression and other forms of human rights violations in the world.

"Unfortunately the situation of human rights in some parts of the world requires more dedication and attention in order to respond to the hopes of millions of people who are suffering and dying every day in their fight against oppression, occupation, exploitation and forms of racism, with its extreme form the aberrant system of apartheid," Abulhassan said in his opening statement.

Obligation

The Kuwaiti envoy was elected to the unit, known as the Third Committee, last Tuesday, as representative of the Asian countries.

The unit is one of the assembly's seven main committees,

concerned with social issues, including human rights.

"All the governments of the world have the moral and political obligation to work together in order to put an end to those situations which confront the international community," Abulhassan said.

Abulhassan singled out the status of women who he said must be "equal with men in various fields and at all levels."

Necessity

Another area on which attention should be focused, he said, is the youth sector "because they are the future leaders," as well as children's rights which he described as "extremely important issues."

With regard to crime and its prevention, he expressed concern about the rising rates of crime at the national, regional and international levels.

As to the ramifications and diversity of crime and its types, Abulhassan said "innovative methods and approaches for countering it have become a

compelling necessity and an unavoidable duty."

The chairman then turned to political conflicts between states as a result of "interference of some powers" in various areas of the world, especially in Asia and Africa where he said the problems of refugees and displaced persons are serious.

Recalling the Oslo conference last month convened by the Organisation for African Unity, OAU to look into these matters, Abulhassan said the OAU resolutions and recommendations for settling the problems of Southern Africa "is considered a significant step in the right direction."

"We call upon the world community to garner all efforts to mitigate the plight of the refugees," Abulhassan said.

"At the same time, we appeal to all member states to accord priority to the rule of law and the heading of the international norms of human rights in order to drain a major tributary of this serious problem," he said.

Uprising will continue: Jassar

THE Minister of Endowments (Awqaf) and Islamic Affairs, Sheikh Khaled Ahmad Al Jassar, has affirmed that the daily sufferings experienced by the Arab people in the occupied territories led to the current uprising.

He expressed the belief that the uprising, currently in its tenth month, will continue despite Zionist attempts to quell it.

Jassar said that the revolt will not cease until the Palestinian people are liberated from Zionism, which has usurped their lands and rights.

The minister noted that the uprising, which broke out last December 9, has drawn strength from the Palestinian people's past experience of the struggle against the Zionist occupation and its brutal practices.

He appealed to Arab and Islamic nations to support the Palestinian uprising financially and politically and he called on the world as a whole to back the Palestinians by applying the humanitarian doctrine of helping the oppressed fight the oppressor until legitimate rights are restored, coupled with self-determination and statehood.

Peace talks

The minister further stated that the Arab and Islamic nations have breathed a sigh of relief over the ceasefire in the Iraq-Iran war, which has been draining the two Muslim countries' human and economic resources for the past eight years.

He hoped that the Iraq-Iran peace talks would lead to a just and lasting peace and noted that Iraq has called for peace and

negotiations since the early days of the war while the other party repeatedly rejected such demands.

He expressed the hope that good neighbourliness between them and among all Muslim countries would prevail to abort attempts by Zionists and other hostile forces to divide Muslims.

Jassar said that the Relief Committee in his ministry had sent relief to victims of the recent floods in Sudan and Bangladesh.

He said that the committee is currently studying the building of new houses for victims of the floods in Sudan and added that the committee dispatched assistance to Khartoum before the floods disaster to help people there cope with difficult living conditions.

The minister pointed out that another committee entrusted with extending aid to Islamic countries is currently studying developing its activities which include the construction of mosques, health centres and schools in Africa, Indonesia and South East Asia.

He noted that the ministry is studying a number of future projects, including increasing the number of its envoys abroad. There are 180 envoys currently touring various countries to spread Islam and bolster the activities of Islamic minorities, he said.

Jassar said that his ministry maintains strong co-operation with the Kuwait-based International Islamic Charity organisation that was established in 1984 to help needy Muslims all over the world.

Islamic relief council likely soon

CAIRO, Sept 24, (KUNA): The final touches have been put to the launching of an international Islamic call and relief council with Sudan and Bangladesh set to become the first recipients of relief supplies from the new charity, it was reported here today.

Kuwaiti Islamic activist, Yousef Alhaji said that the constituent body has concluded discussions on the council's bylaws and its administrative and organ-

izational regulations.

Alhaji, a former Kuwaiti Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Minister, said the bylaws of the new organisation have been submitted to the Al Azhar Mosque leader, Sheikh Jadahaq Ali Jadahaq, who has suggested alterations.

Alhaji expressed the view that the council should have been established long ago to preach the Islamic faith and to send relief supplies to Islamic countries and Muslim communities in times of natural disaster.

Alhaji, who last year founded the Kuwait-based International Islamic Charity, said the Islamic world should not abandon needy Muslims and leave the way open for Christian and Western relief organisations to influence their faith.

He pointed out that the new council, the first global Islamic call and relief body, is awaiting replies from the Sudanese and Bangladeshi governments regarding the kind of relief aid they most need. Hundreds of thousands have been made homeless by floods in both countries this month.

Alhaji said the council will finance housing and vocational training projects in poor Muslim countries, besides offering relief supplies to the distressed.

Sultan of Brunei visits Bahrain

BAHRAIN, Sept 24, (Reuters): The Sultan of Brunei, believed to be the world's richest man, began his first visit to Bahrain today in a bid to boost ties between the two Muslim states.

The official Gulf News Agency said Sultan Muda Hassan Bolkiah and his entourage were met at the airport by Bahrain's Amir, Sheikh Issa Bin Salman Al Khalifa.

Official sources on the island said the Sultan's three-day visit will be a major milestone in promoting economic, trade and cultural ties between the two countries, which are both members of the Islamic Conference Organisation.

Foreign fleets will withdraw from Gulf: Saudi envoy

THE Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to Kuwait Abdullah Al Sudairy was quoted as saying yesterday that the Arab Gulf states try to keep the Gulf region away from international rivalry, and predicted that foreign fleets would withdraw automatically from the Gulf when peace prevails.

In separate interviews with two local newspapers the Saudi ambassador said the Gulf states strive to attain a situation in which it would be unnecessary for big powers to keep military presence in the Gulf to protect their interests.

He expressed belief that all fleets in the Gulf would pull out if the circumstances that threaten the interests of all sides are eliminated.

On the Iraqi-Iranian peace negotiations, the ambassador said: "I think the devastating war which lasted for eight years could not be resolved in one or two

rounds of negotiations."

He added that enough time should be given to the peace negotiations and expressed belief that time is undoubtedly in the interest of peace.

Solidarity

On Saudi Arabia's efforts toward Arab solidarity, Al Sudairy said Saudi Arabia exerts great efforts with the aim of clearing Arab atmosphere in accordance with its Arab national duties.

He added that Saudi Arabia which is a principal member of the World Bank did not hesitate to extend loans to needy Islamic countries, in addition to relief assistance offered by the kingdom in cases of natural disasters in Sudan and Bangladesh.

The ambassador also said that Saudi Arabia which exported 10 million barrels of oil in 1980 is now producing 4.3 million barrels in accordance with its

quota set by the OPEC with the aim of stabilising the oil market. Answering a question about the boom in the agricultural sector in the kingdom, Al Sudairy said in 1975 the planted area had been only 150,000 hectares and at present it is 2,600,000 hectares.

He added that the kingdom has realized self-sufficiency in several agricultural products and started exporting wheat and barley and even flowers.

Agriculture

On future plans, the ambassador said the agricultural sector is receiving special attention in Saudi developments plans and the future will witness intensive efforts aimed at diversifying the agricultural produce to include different kinds of vegetables and fruits.

On the situation in Lebanon, Al Sudairy said the Saudi Kingdom has a clear policy which calls for non-interference in Lebanon's internal affairs.

Postal items to UK accepted

KUWAIT'S Ministry of Communications has announced that the strike of the postal staff of the United Kingdom which caused suspension of all incoming postal mails including Muztazpost has now been settled.

With immediate effect all types of postal items addressed to the United Kingdom will be accepted.

Cultural issues discussed

AN adviser at the Amiri Diwan Abdul Aziz Hussein yesterday received the director of cultural affairs at the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters Sidqi Hatab and the director of the Arab book fair in the council Hashem Al Sabti.

A number of Arab and local cultural issues were discussed during the meeting.

Jordanian premier arrives in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, Sept 24, (Reuters): Jordanian Prime Minister Zeid Al Rifa'i arrived in Baghdad today and had talks with President Saddam Hussein on regional and bilateral issues, the Iraqi News Agency INA said.

It said the two leaders discussed "the close fraternal relations between both countries and the Arab situation in general."

A Jordanian cabinet source said before Rifa'i left Amman he would have talks with Hussein on developments in the Gulf region and matters of mutual interest.

Jordan was a close ally of Iraq during the eight-year war with Iran and hopes a negotiated truce will boost its recession-hit economy.

Jordanian officials and busin-

essmen have said Iraq promised Jordan priority when Baghdad began to repay its foreign debt and rebuild its economy.

King Hussein and the Iraqi President regularly confer on regional and internal issues. They last met in August after a UN-supervised ceasefire in the war went into effect.

INA said Rifa'i left Baghdad later after also meeting Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan, who reaffirmed Iraq's determination to promote co-operation in all fields.

Ramadan also said Iraq was procrastinating in peace talks which began in Geneva one month ago.

Rifa'i expressed support for Iraq's position at the talks, INA said.

Foreigners become an integral part of society in Gulf states

DUBAI, Sept 24, (Reuters): In the United Arab Emirates (UAE), foreigners talk wistfully of the good old days, when oil made the desert state a fortune-seeker's El Dorado.

Plunging oil prices ended the boom that made the UAE's Arabs among the world's richest, but which left them outnumbered three to one by more than a million foreigners in less than 15 years.

And most immigrants confounded predictions that they would vanish as quickly as they came. They have soldiered on through the lean times or been replaced by eager newcomers.

"Foreigners are now an integral part of society, servicing the economy they helped to build, and generating wealth of their own," a Western diplomat said.

"It's difficult to see how that situation could easily be changed, even if anyone wanted to."

But from India, the pattern of immigration has altered much since the 1970s, said Jinder Mahagan, India's Dubai-based Indian Consul-General.

"It used to be unskilled labourers, but increasingly semi-skilled workers and professionals come here," he said.

The UAE relaxed immigration laws last year to allow more foreign workers to bring their families.

Diplomats said the move showed growing acceptance of the immigrant as a permanent fact of UAE life, and not just as a temporary guest. But the UAE rarely grants citizenship.

More than 500,000 people from the India sub-continent live in the UAE, alongside thousands of foreign Arabs, many of them Palestinians, and nearly 50,000 Filipinos.

So great is the lure of high wages that many would-be immigrants from India, Pakistan and Iran dodge coastal patrols to scramble ashore illegally from fishing boats.

Yet wage levels have fallen since the per capita gross national product (GNP) slumped from more than \$30,000 a year in 1983 to \$15,000 last year. But the opportunities are still enormous when seen through the eyes of a labourer from India, where the yearly GNP per head is less than \$500.

"I earn five times more here as a waiter than I did working in a factory in India, and I send most of it back home," said Ali, who arrived from Kerala three years ago.

"Working conditions can be tough but the money is too good to pass by," he added.

The country's native Arabs, are pleased with the oil-fed growth of their glittering modern cities from the desert sands.

And most Arabs have accepted the foreigners with good grace, despite being reduced to a minority in their own country.

"It's remarkable how little friction there is," a Western diplomat said. "Proportionately, it's as though 150 million immigrants arrived in Britain and hardly anyone cared."

But the assimilation has not been entirely free of strain. Local newspapers occasionally call for more jobs to be reserved for nationals. And educated foreigners say they sometimes face local resentment.

In Dubai's Jebel Ali Free Zone — which businessmen rate a success and where employers may import workers unrestricted — thousands of people from the sub-continent make clothes and light industrial goods or supply services.

Bustling Dubai has been the region's thriving centre of trade for centuries and foreigners from Iran and other countries have lived there for generations.

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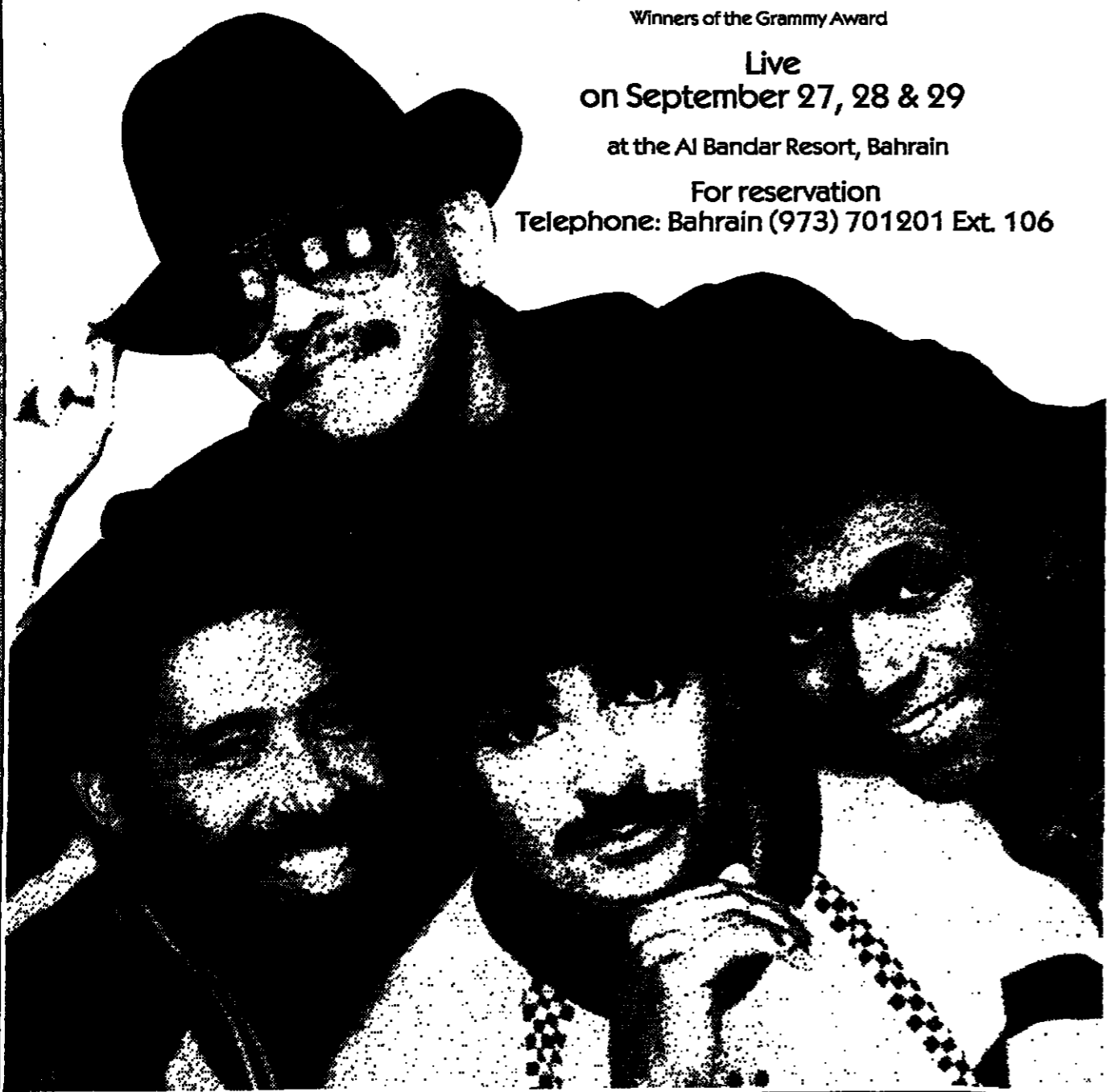
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A graceful step ahead

FOR the last few years Indian dance shows have been showing basic dance skills. Such shows were aimed at encouraging budding dancers. The audience reaction was secondary, and understandably so, because of the shortage of experienced dancers. Now, it seems there are many talented dancers on the scene.

At last Thursday's Nrithotsav 88, held at the Indian Arts Circle, Narthana, one of the dance groups in Kuwait, took a graceful step ahead, experimenting with form, rhythm, expression and footwork, the fundamentals of all dance forms. It was a bold step and perhaps required a lot of preparatory work. The product was remarkably better than previous Indian dance shows staged in Kuwait.

Mrs Prameela Surendran's choreography incorporated themes from mythology and epics for the classical, semi-classical and folk dance numbers presented by her students. The dancers certainly seemed in

tune, performing intricate steps with grace and skill.

For once the IAC stage did not wear a deserted look. Narthana had provided backdrops and sets, though not professional, and played with shadow effects to create an aura of a dance theatre. Careful use of lighting effects also enhanced the impact. And surprisingly, the sound system did not play truant.

Some of the best choreographed numbers included a solo Mohiniyattam, a Kerala dance form, by Rama Padmak; a folk dance narrating the story of Perunthachan, performed skilfully by Sabari Appalattan; a group dance called Uma Thandavam and the highlight of the show, a ballet called Panchavadi, based on an episode from the Indian epic Ramayana.

Narthana's thoughtful planning prevented the show from becoming monotonous. The group provided variety by alternating between fast and slow numbers and included a

modern dance. Some people in the audience felt that the inclusion of a breakdance item was uncalled for at a purely classical show. True. But Bala's vigorous, flexible and energetic breakdance nearly brought the house down with teenagers going berserk. The breakdance number was also a timely reminder of changing preferences, particularly among the younger generation and the pressing need to preserve a country's cultural heritage.

The programme went so well with the audience that Narthana has been asked by the IAC to re-stage the show in November. Nrithotsav was successful because it was different but to maintain the quality precedent set by Narthana other groups — there are 12 in Kuwait — will have to work twice as hard.

The only dark spot at an otherwise enjoyable evening was the discourteous audience, which did not have the decency to listen to a speech made by the chief guest.

FA



Prameela Surendran: director of Nrithotsav



Variety show

A variety show was held to mark the fifth anniversary of the Kuwait Tamil Catholics Association. Vocalists Shobha, Imtiaz Ilyas and others took part. The show, presented by Edwin Dass, included dances and a recital of instrumental music. Left: Shobha performing at the show.

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Under Pure Skies

DAILY: 8.30 to 12 noon; 4.30 to 7 pm; Kuwait National Museum: Under Pure Skies, an exhibition of 19th century photographs of the Middle East, on loan from International Museum of Photography, New York.

Kuwait Science Museum

DAILY: 5 pm onwards: natural history exhibits from in and around Kuwait, including blue whale. Friday: 9 am onwards.

Islamic Arts Museum

SAT-THU: 8.30 am to 12.30 pm and 4.30 to 7.30 pm. Collection includes rare Islamic artefacts, Quranic manuscripts, ceramics, carpets and marine equipment. Arabian Gulf St.

Tareq Rajab Museum

SAT-THU: 9 am to 12 noon; 4.30 to 7 pm. Exhibits include bedouin handicrafts — rugs, saddle bags, cushions and textiles. Closed on Friday.

EDUCATION

Books & Software show

DAILY UNTIL SEPT 28: British Council, Mansouriyah; 9 am to 12.30 pm; 5-8 pm: Computers and Application, an exhibition of books and software. Selected titles on show. Organised by British Council in association with Kuwait Bookshops Company. All are welcome.

THEATRE

Alice in Wonderland

SEPT 25/26: Kuwait English School, Salwa, 7.30 pm. Kuwait Players and actors for adults (14 roles) the musical fantasy, Alice in Wonderland. It will be performed in January next year. Those attending

auditions — adults and children — are requested to call 5640102 in advance.

NATIA

SEPT 29/30: IAC, Funatees: 5.30 National Art Theatre of Indians abroad (NATIA) presents Indian dance festival. Folk and classical dance from different regions in India. Opening on Thursday; closing ceremony on Friday.

Konkani Drama

OCT 7: IAC, Funatees, 4 pm: Konkani drama entitled "Xim Vo Ximiteer". Written and directed by Cajetan De Sanvordem, Marcus Vaz. Xavier Gomes, featuring the Mendes Brothers. Entry passes available at Raja Stores.

Bengali Play

OCT 27/28: 6.30 pm, Mousetrap Theatre: The Mousetrap group, a Bangladeshi theatre company, presents Ballav Purer Rupkatha, a fairy tale. For reservations phone A. Karim — 2627643; Dr Hyder — 5625456; Heron — 4893424.

MUSIC

Kuwait Singers: AND

MONDAYS, 7.30 pm: Rehearsals for the December concert; at Gulf English, Salwa. New members welcome. For enquiries call 3940770 ext. 56 or 5384873.

Country Western Musical

SEPT 27: Gala Night of KLT and ACT's annual Country Western Musical 7.30 pm, at KLT, Ahmadi.

Sept 28 and 29, night shows, 8 pm.

Sept 30: matinee at 5 pm.

For bookings call 5727558; 5712033; 5620332.

East meets West

OCT 6: IAC, 6.30 pm: "East meets West", a musical evening, by The Fams with Hindi, Punjabi, Malayalam, Tamil, Konkani, Bengali, Arabic and Western Music. Lead vocalist: Susan Rego. For entry by pas-

ses Tel: 2409250; 4743984 or IAC — 3904817.

Beat Show

OCT 14: IAC, Funatees, 3.30 pm: The Kuwait Goan Beat Show: four-hours of non-stop music featuring six brass bands — City Limits, 5th Dimensions, Perfect Stranger, Stepping Stones, Next of Kin and Top Ranks. Organised by the Kuwait Goans.

Guitar Recital

OCT 19: Kuwait Hilton Hotel: Concert of German guitarist and composer Wolfgang Condin. "Hymns of Eternity", one of Condin's most significant compositions will be featured in his concert along with works by J.S Bach and H. Villa-Lobos. Tickets are available from the Hilton lobby.

SOCIAL

Contact

SEPT 24, SAS Hotel, 10.30 am: Contact Ladies Information Group meeting. Newcomers to Kuwait are particularly welcome. For details phone 4874513 or 5388105.

Sounds Great Party

SEPT 29: Messilah Beach Hotel, 8 pm: Sounds Great group's "Welcome Back/Welcome to Kuwait" dance party. Music by Top Ranks and the Juke Box band. Twist competition, and novelty prizes. For reservations and further details ring Ken Winston or Adolf 5740256/7 or 5758870. Newcomers to Kuwait are particularly welcome.

Kuwait Welsh Society

OCT 5: 8 pm. Kuwait Welsh Society social evening. For further details Tel. 371-3467.

D'Assisi Association

OCT 7: Holy Family Cathedral, 8 am: D'Assisi Association's 8th annual thanksgiving mass. All ex-students are welcome. For details phone Augustin — 574-6754 after 6 pm or Henry — 3291909 (am).

Goan Fleets 88

OCT 13: Messilah Beach Hotel, Habiba Ballroom: Goan

Fiesta 88 to celebrate the fifth anniversary of the Young Goans Association. Music by the Stepping Stones and Hurricane Alley. For details Tel: 481-3740.

Flassik/Kapilku

OCT 22: SAS Hotel, The Tent, 6 pm: Kapilku and Flassik will celebrate their seventh anniversary. For details phone Edna — 653-4200; Florence — 243-9451; Jojo — 902-9593.

HOTELS

At the Holiday Inn

Al Ahmadi Coffee Shop: international buffet meals at lunch and dinner from 6 am to 1 am; a la carte also available. Vietnamese Cafe: fresh pastries and cakes and other refreshments.

Hanging Babylon Gardens: an ideal place to relax with friends. Thursdays: dine and dance at Al Andalus Night Club.

Friday: fun 'n' surprises for children and parents at the weekly brunch, 11 am to 3 pm.

At the Hilton

La Patisserie: 10.30 am to 10.45 pm; Olympic Promotion. Watch Olympic games on TV sets placed in lobby and restaurant. Light snacks and desserts are on offer.

Fallaka Rest: lunch: 12.30-3 pm; dinner: 7.30-11.30 pm; Olympic Recommendation, until Oct 2, in addition to normal grazing menu.

At the Kuwait Plaza

Al Dallah coffee shop: buffet breakfast, lunch and dinner; also set menu; mini-business lunch. International Food Arcade: 4 to 10 pm; ice cream festival: light snacks served from 10.00 am to 11.00 pm.

Bosphorus Restaurant: Turkish cuisine, a la carte; lunch and dinner daily except Saturday. Marco Polo Restaurant: Italian food, live music and at night candlelight dinner.

At the Continental

Gardenia: 7 am to midnight; buffets featuring Arabic, Con-

tinental and Indian food. Special buffet for Thursday dinner and Friday lunch. Darbar: daily Indian lunch buffet, except Friday; a la carte dinner.

At the Meridian

Versailles: seafood, grilled, lunch and dinner. Al Wahat: Noodles promotion until Sept 30. Thursday: Tony's jam session, music, good and lively atmosphere.

Friday: family fun day — brunch, buffet and live entertainment; video cartoons and fun.

SPORTS

Kuwait Nomads Rugby

SEPT 25/26: 7.15 pm: Kuwait Nomads rugby players train every Sunday and Tuesday. Meet at the site of the Old Ground in Fintas. New members always made welcome. For details ring Graham Adams — 484-1296; Andy Hopkins — 564-2599; Steve Hiji — 531-8060.

Windsurfing Regatta

OCT 7: MBH Windsurfing Regatta. Open to men, women and teams. Entry forms available from Marine Centre (Tel: 55755960); Qabazard Marine (Tel: 5730442); Sultan Centers and Al Boom Marine (Tel: 4830570). For further details phone 5624111 ext. 751739.

Softball League

CALLING PLAYERS — men and women — to join Kuwait International Softball League. Contact Steve Diemler — Tel: 531-5246 or Vic Mason Tel: 5728931. Ladies wishing to join the Ladies League call Rita Diemler — Tel: 5315246.

Boy's Own Club

OCT 22/23: Boy's Own Club will hold a seven-a-side one-day football festival on the holiday declared to mark the Prophet's (PBUH) birthday. Interested teams can contact Milagres 3967446 or Joe d'Souza 4813662.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

3.30 Holy Quran
3.35 Headline cartoon serial
4.10 World News via Satellite
4.40 Baqaya Huttam: Arabic serial, starring Juliet Awad, Rabih Shihab, Dawood Jalal.
5.40 Songs
6.10 Songs and Music
6.30 Documentary
7.05 In Public Service: You and Your Health
8.00 Variety Show
8.15 Diwanayat Shuara Al Nabat: poetry session
9.00 News in Arabic
9.50 Al Shara'a Maktour: Arabic serial, starring Hassan Yusuf, Nawal Al Fulouh, Mustafa Fahmi.

Osama Abbas
Urs Baghdad: Saher Mirza presents this a dramatized version of Iraqi wedding customs.
12.05 News Summary
12.10 World News via Satellite, followed by Holy Quran/Closedown.

KTV 2

4.00 Opening and Holy Quran
4.38 Cartoons
4.55 Football: From Al Kazmah Sports Club — between Al Arabi Club and Al Fahaheel
7.57 Valerie: this week, Valerie has to settle a dispute between her son and her daughter's ex-boyfriend.
8.00 News in English

8.33 Flying Doctors "Into the Future". The town folk wait for the outcome of the beauty contest as the pilot declares his intention to leave town.
9.26 Daily report from Seoul
10.30 Bestseller: "A Place to Call Home". Starring: Robert Magrath, Larry Smith. The story of an American who migrates to Australia in 1970.
11.30 News Summary/Magazine d'Actualite/Closedown

Please note that programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

RADIO PROGRAMMES

BBC World Services

0000 World News
09 News about Britain
15 Radio News
30 News Summary
0100 News Summary (followed by Play of the Week: 4th Jacques and His Master, 11th Home: 18th Language Spoken Here; 25th Justice)
0200 World News
09 British Press Review
15 The Third Policeman (ex 25th T.S. Eliot's Poems)
30 The Ken Bruce Show
0300 World News
09 News about Britain
15 From Our Own Correspondent
30 Prompt! (ex 4th Trivia Test Match)
0400 Newsdesk
30 English News (ex 18th and 25th Sports World)
45 Reflections
50 Financial News

0500 World News
09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
30 Lyrics and Lyricists (ex 4th A-Z of Hollywood)
45 Letter from America
0600 Newsdesk
30 Jazz for the Asking (ex 4th Five Faces of Jazz)
0700 World News
09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
30 From Our Own Correspondent
45 Words
50 Waveguide
0800 World News
09 Reflections
15 The Pleasure's Yours
0900 World News
09 British Press Review
15 Science in Action
40 (18th and 25th only) Sports World
45 4th and 11th Whither Wisdom: 18th and 25th Sports World
1000 News Summary followed by Short Story
15 Classical Record Review
30 Religious Service

1100 World News
09 News about Britain
15 From Our Own Correspondent
30 Puccini
1200 News Summary followed by Play of the Week: 4th Jacques and His Master, 11th Home: 18th Language Spoken Here; 25th Justice
1300 World News
09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
30 Sports Roundup
45 The Tony Myatt Request Show including at 1400 News Summary

Urdu

1900 Opening
1910 Behereen Qaul
1916 Programme Preview
1925 Songs
1935 Press Report
1940 Ek Khayal Ek Geet
2000 News
2020 Songs
2040 Geet Kahani
2100 Closedown

NIGHT CHEMIST

Kuwait
Al Istiqal Pharmacy
Safat Square
Al Amal Pharmacy
Mubarak Al Kabir St.
Hawalli and Nagra
Al Walid Pharmacy
Tunis St., Nagra
Salamiya and Rumailhiya
Al Razan Pharmacy
Fahd Ahmed Al Khalid Bldg., Kazi St.
Fahsheel and Ahmadi
Al Adel Pharmacy
Awadhi Bldg., Fheel
Kheitan
Al Wahda Pharmacy
Main St.
Jahra
Al Noor Pharmacy
Abdul Aziz Nasrullah Bldg., Matafi St.

CINEMA TODAY

Al Andalus
My Lucky Stars
Starring: Jackie Chan, Sam Hung
Al Salamiya
Burglar
Starring: Whoopi Goldberg
Al Hamra
Nahar Al Khauf (Arabic)
Starring: Mahmoud Abdul Aziz, Noora
Drive-In
Khata Al Shaitan (Arabic)
Starring: Subair Ramzi, Karam Mutawa, Mohammad Wafiq
Al Firdous
Saat Saal Baad (Hindi)
Starring: Suresh Oberoi, Navin Nischol, Sharmila Tagore
Al Fahsheel
Roxanne

Fahsheel Open-Air
Hum Tere Ashiq Hain (Hindi)
Al Jahra
Nastik (Hindi)
Granada
Trishul (Hindi)
Sulabikhat
Volunteers
Al Jeeb
Sruthi (Malayalam)
Ahmadi Drive-In
Pumaman

PRAYERS

Fajr	4.20 am
Zuhr	11.39
Asr	3.05 pm
Maghreb	5.39
Isha	6.56

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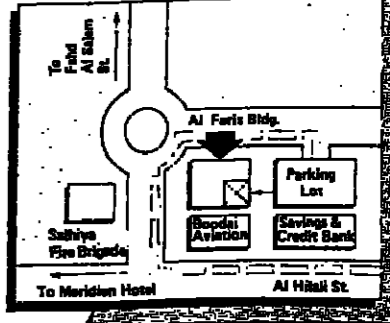
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EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

WHAT the government gives you, the government can take away, and once it starts taking away, it can take more than it gave — Samuel Gompers, US labour leader (1850-1924).

Jamaican politics

Manley admits his mistakes

By Linda Feldmann

THE once and probably future prime minister of Jamaica readily admits he made mistakes during his 1972-80 tenure as leader of this regionally influential Caribbean island. He tried to do too much too fast, he says. And Manley concedes that he allowed disagreements with the private sector at home and with Washington to mushroom into hostility.

Now he is ready to run his country again. And, if opinion polls hold steady, Manley will get that chance in elections expected for later this year. In the meantime, the lanky, regal-looking leader of the opposition People's National Party has been busy mending fences in the United States. The question, State Department and Capitol Hill observers say, is whether this dedicated Social Democrat has become as pragmatic as he claims — or whether he is just saying what people want to hear.

In a meeting of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and in a separate interview here, Manley spoke about Jamaica's social problems, drugs, Cuba, and the Caribbean. **Mistake**

"We made a very serious mistake in allowing a sort of anger with US pressure" to build up over Jamaica's relationship with Cuba, Manley says. "An important part of my strategy that was not perceived by Washington was economic relations with the region — and that included Cuba."

If elected, Manley says he plans to restore diplomatic ties to Cuba, but will keep them lower profile. In other words, he probably won't see Cuban construction brigades building Jamaican schools, as happened during his earlier watch.

During his earlier years out of office, during which he wrote a lengthy volume on cricket and has served as vice-president of the Socialist International, he travelled frequently to the States.

Now his relations with bankers and government officials here are "infinitely better," he says.

Manley is also prepared for a more constructive relationship with the Jamaican private sector, which will include efforts to promote small business. His failed attempt to create state communal farms will remain a memory.

"You scratch every Jamaican

under the skin and you'll find an entrepreneur dying to get out," he says. "It took us (Social Democrats) a long time to understand this."

One lucrative line of business he doesn't plan to promote, however, is marijuana production and cocaine trafficking. Though Jamaica's co-operation with regionwide US drug-eradication programmes has contributed to Prime Minister Edward Seaga's decline in popularity, Manley says he won't ease up in the struggle against drugs, which are "the dagger at the throat of any attempt of the Caribbean to develop."

He does repeat the oft-heard refrain of small, poor, drug-producing nations that the "enormous suction of US society for drugs" needs to be stopped as well.

Ironically, it is Prime Minister Seaga's austerity programme — which was producing promising results, with unemployment down, tourism booming, and economic growth up — that will likely push Seaga out of office. Social services, such as education and health care, have suffered under Seaga's budget cuts. Manley hopes to improve services by making better use of the resources available, and through the use of technology.

What does he want from the new US administration?

"To give us the benefit of the doubt," responds Manley instantly, still conscious of his reputation as a hot-headed leftist.

Manley is enthusiastic about legislation proposed by Rep. George Crockett (D) of Michigan. It is designed to investigate President Reagan's Caribbean Basin Initiative, which has so far provided only minimal gains for the region. The bill calls for a US economic aid programme for the Caribbean promoting:

- Greater self-sufficiency in food production.
- Rural development, so that people will want to stay in the country, not overcrowded cities.
- Small and mid-sized co-operative and community-based agricultural industries for processing locally produced food.
- Financial credit for farms and manufacturers.
- Expanded tourism.
- Greater role of women in development.

The Christian Science Monitor.

Brain-drain problems affecting Hong Kong

By Bruce Flenberg

HONG KONG, (UPI): With Britain's handover of Hong Kong to communist China only nine years away, much of the prosperous colony's educated middle class is leaving — or at least thinking about emigrating.

The departure of thousands of executives, computer experts, businessmen and professionals casts doubts on Hong Kong's ability to compete in the fastest growing economic region in the world.

"What are your plans?" and "When are you going?" have become common questions among residents in advance of Britain's turnover of the colony to China in 1997 — the expiration of its 99-year lease on Hong Kong and the new territories abutting the Chinese mainland.

Long before the government would even acknowledge the existence of a "brain drain," businessmen saw their best employees heading for greener pastures overseas, concerned about the future under communism.

Shortage

"It appears that we are headed toward a labour shortage in middle management, especially in the financial sectors," a government spokesman conceded recently. Publicly the government estimates some 27,000 people left Hong Kong last year, compared with some 20,000 leaving each year between 1980 and 1984.

But a government source said a confidential report shows 49,000 of the colony's 5.6 million people left last year. It concludes that those emigrating were

highly educated and had up to 10 years' work experience.

He said the study, initiated in May, will be released after officials have time to re-evaluate the figures.

The brain drain is particularly embarrassing since the government in recent years has pushed a policy of replacing British civil servants with local Chinese. Now it is having trouble finding qualified locals for senior positions.

Survey

A recent survey by the Hong Kong Computer Society found more than 67 per cent of its members have decided to leave or are seriously considering emigration.

Government administrator Mike Rowse, in charge of the brain drain study, said the rate of emigration was expected to remain high for the next two years. He attributed the rise to relaxed requirements in certain countries, mainly Canada and Australia.

Canada issued 22,097 immigration visas to Hong Kong residents last year, compared with 9,948 in 1986. Australia expects to issue up to 10,000 this year, a 50 per cent rise over 1987.

Misunderstanding

Since London and Beijing signed the 1984 Sino-British joint declaration on Hong Kong finalising the handover, emigration has increased every year except one.

"Many people supported the Sino-British joint declaration because of misunderstanding, but now they understand it more and are deciding to leave," said T.L. Tsui of Hong Kong's Chinese University, a well-known commentator.

National reconciliation faces serious threat

Islamic law proposals threaten to split Sudan

By Philip Williams

KHARTOUM, (UPI): When Sudan's fiercely Islamic "sharia" law code was first enforced five years ago, 1,500 people packed Khartoum's Kober prison to see the bloodletting.

About 5,000 more waited outside while surgeon cut off the right hands of two convicted thieves without anaesthetic.

If a new sharia code due to go before the National Assembly shortly is adopted, crowds will gather at Kober again for the amputations, cross-amputations (right hand and left foot), floggings and crucifixions the harsh laws demand.

And if it does become law, it may also extinguish any hope of national reconciliation and an end to the crippling civil war between the Arabic-speaking Muslim north and black African Christian-led south.

"For Sudanese to be discussing the lopping off of hands and feet in the middle of a flood crisis in which hundreds of thousands of Sudanese are suffering, is an obscene irrelevance," said one Khartoum lawyer.

The issue is being debated in every home and roadside cafe in teetotal Khartoum.

Threaten "These proposed laws threaten Sudan's essential unity and national identity," said a former cabinet minister. "They threaten the very concept of a Sudanese nation."

"A secular state guarantees minimum rights for everybody. It does not discriminate between citizens."

Former Sudanese President Jaafar Numeiri first introduced Islamic law in 1983, courting the support of Muslim fundamentalists to boost his ebbing popularity. It may not have been much resented among pious,

northern Sudanese but it was and is universally hated in the south.

Prime Minister Sadiq Al Mahdi followed Numeiri's lead, inviting the fundamentalist National Islamic Front to join his tottering coalition when his key alliance with the southern bloc broke over southern demands to end the civil war.

"He ceased to act as a national leader seeking national consensus and will pay for it," said one student of Sudan's Byzantine politics.

Sharia

The price of NIF participation in government was the swift introduction of a new, NIF-sponsored sharia, replacing the old code shelved since Numeiri's fall in a popular 1985 coup.

The new draft was written by lawyer and NIF leader Hassan Al Turabi. To southerners and independent-minded Sudanese politicians it is more repugnant even than the 1983 version,

which sparked the civil war.

It matches the 1983 punishments of public flogging for minor crime and drinking alcohol, stoning for married adultery, hanging and amputation for theft and cross-amputation for hanging and crucifixion for armed robbery and murder. Old Testament-style retribution is strong in the code, which allows for retributive wounding and literally a tooth for a tooth.

Exempts

But it also adds a new offense lawyers fear could be a catch-all for use against social critics and reformers — apostasy against the Muslim religion.

Anyone renouncing Islam publicly or advocating such renunciation must repent in front of a court or suffer death.

The code protects other religions against public attack, but critics fear those women's rights advocates and other non-traditional reformers could be

prosecuted for bringing Muslim custom into disrepute.

Turabi's proposed legislation exempts the south from the harsh Islamic punishments, substituting jail and fines. Adultery is to be punished there with a 12-month prison sentence.

Anyone living in the north who commits an offence would come under Islamic law, as would passengers on Sudanese ships and airplanes.

Alternatively, an aggrieved party can apply to a court for damages, calculated as fractions of the value of a herd of 100 camels. Thus a person losing all his fingers and toes as a result of negligence or deliberate violence may sue for diya (blood money) valued at 100 camels. A person losing only a finger may sue only for 10.

Critics, like the Bar Association and the Sudanese Christian Churches, say the code predetermines — in advance of any possi-

ble peace accommodation with the powerful southern rebels — that Sudan is primarily an Arab nation.

The Muslim majority is about 73 per cent of the total population. Christians number about 9 per cent and the rest is animist.

"Before we determine whether we are a Muslim or Arab nation, we must determine whether or not we are a Sudanese society or what we are," said former Housing Minister Amin Medani.

Powerful

Medani, like almost all critics within the extremely powerful trade and professional unions in Sudan, fears most that the reintroduction of sharia will make a peace agreement with Jolir Garang's Sudan People's Liberation Army rebels impossible. Garang has said as much recently.

Medani, himself a Muslim, deplores using religion as a political tool.

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Iraqis stumped by ceasefire deadlock

By John Rice

BAGHDAD, Iraq, (AP): Iraq claims it won the Gulf war with Iran, but officials here increasingly suspect they are losing the peace.

A string of Iraqi battlefield victories earlier this year devastated Iran's war machine and apparently forced Tehran to accept a United Nations ceasefire it had rejected for nearly a year.

But Iraq's demand for a permanent settlement of the 8-year-old conflict is stalled in UN-mediated peace talks.

"The present situation is in Iran's favour, not Iraq's," Defence Minister Adnan Khairallah complained during a news conference with foreign reporters last week.

Iraqis claim Iran does not want peace — just a breathing space to rebuild its Army before resuming efforts to spread its Islamic revolution.

The no-peace, no-war situa-

tion also leaves Iraq unable to use its only seaports — deeply frustrating Iraqi rulers who have made renewed shipping a priority.

Iraqis still remember Iran's wartime vows to spread its fundamentalist revolution throughout the Muslim world. After the ceasefire, Ayatollah Khomeini said accepting the truce was "more deadly to me than poison."

Ironically, Iraq and its Arab allies had demanded the UN ceasefire measure when Iraq was on the defensive and Iranian troops were hammering at the southern Iraqi city of Basra, the nation's main pre-war port.

But between April and July, Iraqi troops recaptured all the territory they had lost to the Iranians over the previous six years and even pushed into Iran.

They claimed to have captured half of Iran's tank force — much of which they displayed earlier this month to foreign diplomats and reporters.

So the ceasefire the Iraqis had

hoped would save Iraq may have ended up, in fact, saving Iran.

Iraqi negotiators headed to the UN sponsored peace talks in Geneva vowing to negotiate on the basis of victory. But their efforts to capitalize on military success has been frustrated.

Demand

The talks have bogged down over Iraq's demand that the southern ports of Basra and Umm Qasr be put back in business immediately and that sovereignty over the Shatt-Al-Arab waterway, the southern border between the two countries, be renegotiated.

Iran has insisted on tackling the matter later in what promise to be drawn-out negotiations.

Silt and the bulks of half-sunken ships block both Iraqi ports at present. The political deadlock is delaying the lengthy task of clearing them, since the ceasefire has not brought the withdrawal of Iranian blockade forces at Umm Qasr, and Basra lies on the disputed Shatt-Al-Arab.

Japan awaits death of its 'last emperor'

By Graham Earnshaw

TOKYO, (Reuters): With resignation and vague unease, Japan is awaiting the passing of Emperor Hirohito and with him, an era.

The emperor has been a part of the lives of the Japanese people for more than 60 years, but he remains a mystery to most of them, and to the world.

Is he a god, war criminal or mild-mannered marine biologist? He has been called all three during his 37 years.

He is many ways truly Japan's "last emperor". Hirohito began his reign officially viewed as a god while his son, Crown Prince Akihito, will begin his as an ordinary man.

Hirohito ceased to have any political role in Japan after his country's defeat at the end of World War Two.

But the financial markets are nervous and moving in response to rumours about his health, a measure of the long shadow he still casts over Japan's soul.

Inspire

He does not inspire the same kind of superstar adulation that the Japanese people that Britain's royal family have lived with for so many years.

Japan's 120 million people are usually only vaguely aware of the presence of the emperor in the sprawling grounds of the Imperial Palace in the centre of Tokyo.

But analysts reckon that his passing could have a profound effect on the Japanese consciousness.

A handful of people who continue to revere the emperor as a god — he renounced his divinity in 1946 under orders from General Douglas MacArthur — may commit suicide in sympathy when he passes away.

Some analysts say his death could help Japan to shed its past

and begin to see itself as an equal member of the international community, neither better nor worse than other nations.

For nearly two decades after he ascended the Chrysanthemum throne in 1926, Hirohito was the symbol of a militarist, expansionist Japan.

Millions of Japanese soldiers, screaming "banzai" — 10,000 years — threw themselves into battle on orders to make all of Asia subject to Hirohito.

He later claimed he had been powerless to stop the slide into a suicidal war of conquest, although many Japanese and foreigners still see him as bearing a heavy responsibility.

The London Sun on Wednesday published an editorial which summed up the extreme anti-emperor view, prompting a protest from the Japanese embassy.

"There are two reasons for sadness as Emperor Hirohito lies on his deathbed," the paper said. "The first is that he lived as long as he did. The second is that he died unpunished for some of the foulest crimes of this violent century."

The emperor cultivated since the war.

Replaced

The military uniforms of his youth were replaced by quiet suits and straw hats as he was shown strolling in the palace grounds examining plants or conducting experiments on jellyfish in his private laboratory.

But in the new age of post-war democratic Japan, the "Chrysanthemum curtain" which has surrounded the imperial family for centuries has been raised only grudgingly by the retainers who surround the emperor.

The Imperial Household Agency which controls his life is the most conservative section of the Japanese bureaucracy, and

Emperor Hirohito

does not look kindly on innovation or on many of the press' attempts to cover the emperor's condition.

The extreme secrecy which surrounds Hirohito prompted even a cabinet minister on Thursday to complain about the agency's handling of the crisis.

Open

"The Chrysanthemum curtain is so thick. The agency should be more open about information on his majesty the emperor," Transport Minister Shintaro Ishihara told reporters.

The agency has been accused by some sections of the press of concealing the seriousness of the emperor's condition.

On occasion been more than

plac, particularly about vomiting of blood on Monday. One closely guarded secret the name to be given to the new era, although government officials admit that it is a matter of discussion.

The reign of each Japanese emperor is given a title which is the basis of the calendar still in all areas of Japanese life. Choosing the correct, auspicious title is a heavy responsibility.

In 1926 when Hirohito succeeded to the throne, his advisers chose the name "Showa", an enlightened peace — for his reign, a sentiment which ill-fitted the war years to come.

University as well as tataran English, European languages, law and history. Like his biologist father, science was a major hobby, and he delivered scientific papers on goby fish, a mudskucker.

Akihito has spent 54 years preparing for his reign. His name, to be chosen by government officials, is a closely kept secret. For many Japanese it will be a symbolic start of a modern era, free of the fetters of war memories that plagued Hirohito.

Bitterness

His son has also tasted the bitterness of survivors who fought hopeless war in the name of the emperor. In Okinawa, site of the Pacific War's fiercest fighting between Japanese and American troops, 1,500 people turned out to demonstrate last year against Hirohito's first scheduled visit to the island.

Instead, Akihito read a statement on behalf of his father. "I feel great sadness and pain when I think of how Okinawa suffered tremendous damage in the war... produced a large number of honourable victims... and was forced to suffer numerous hardships for a long time after the war," he read.

Some leftists, religious groups and war victims continue to oppose the existence of the Japanese monarchy. For Akihito it has never been a question of choice.

Asked once by his American quaker schoolteacher, the late Elizabeth Vining, what he would be when he grew up, the boy Prince replied, "I will become emperor."

Last year, at a rare reception with American journalists, he confided, "I don't think I have ever considered what I would wish to do, as I don't have the experiences of a regular Japanese citizen and I can't imagine being able to choose another way of life."

TODAY IN HISTORY

1523 — Duke of Albany lands at Dumbarton from France and begins rallying Scots against England.

1555 — Peace of Augsburg in Germany, whereby Lutheran religion makes significant gains and Lutheran states enjoy equal rights with Catholic states.

1604 — Spanish forces under Ambrogio de Spinola capture Ostend from Dutch after more than three-year siege.

1663 — Neuhausel, Hungary, surrenders to Turks who then threaten to invade Germany.

1688 — France's King Louis XIV invades Palatinate, uniting German princes against him.

1894 — British annex Pondoland, connecting Cape Colony and Natal in Africa.

1908 — Casablanca incident, in which German deserters from French Foreign Legion are taken by force from German consular official.

1940 — Collaborationist Quisling government is established in Norway in World War II.

1959 — Premier S. Bandaranaike of Ceylon is assassinated and is succeeded by W. Dahanayake.

1963 — Military leaders in Dominican Republic overthrow seven-month-old government of President Juan D. Bosch.

1966 — Two typhoons hit Japan, leaving more than 300 people dead and missing.

1972 — Japan's Premier Kakuei Tanaka arrives in Beijing, becoming first Japanese premier to set foot in China since World War II.

1973 — Three-man crew of US space laboratory, Skylab 2, makes safe splashdown in Pacific Ocean after record 59 days in orbit around earth.

1976 — Proposal for eventual black rule in Rhodesia is accepted by Rhodesia's Prime Minister Ian Smith in broadcast to his nation.

1984 — Jordan and Egypt resume diplomatic relations after seven-year break.

1986 — China and Soviet Union agree to resume talks about disputed border region after eight-year suspension.

1987 — UN Security Council discusses ways to end Gulf war.

هكذا من النجمل

Hope for liver transplant patients

The one-in-a-billion baby

By Georgina Gold

LESS than three years ago vivacious brunette Yvonne Munroe was at death's door. She was suffering from chronic liver failure and her only hope of survival lay in a liver transplant.

Luckily a suitable donor was found — Yvonne's death sentence was lifted and within 12 months she was back to full health.

But even more amazingly, 39-year-old Yvonne is today the proud mother of a baby boy, one that doctors said she would never have. Tiny Kelsey Munroe is truly a baby in a billion. Yvonne is only the sixth liver transplant patient in the world to have had a baby — and the first in Britain.

And as she cuddles little Kelsey, Yvonne looks every inch the radiant mother. For the joys of motherhood was one thing she once thought she would never experience again. She says: "I still can't believe it. I never thought that I would be able to have another child after being so ill. My liver problems first started during my first marriage after I gave birth to my first son, Hylton, 19 years ago."

"When I had my transplant I had only been given a few months to live. My only thought afterwards was to get myself back to health. It was beyond my wildest dreams to even think of having a baby. I can't say how grateful I am to the donor family, as without that donor I would have been dead. It is thanks to them that I have been able to be a mother once more."

And baby in a billion Kelsey is also extra special to proud father Roy, a transport driver with the Royal Air Force.

Proud mother Yvonne Munroe can hardly believe her luck — at 39 she has just become the sixth liver transplant patient in the world to have a baby — and the first in Britain. And that means she has beaten odds of one billion to one.

He says: "Kelsey is my first child. It was worth it all just to hold him and see the birth."

"Yvonne has been through so much and I never dreamed that I would ever become a father. She was so ill when I married her but I never realised how close to death she was. I just wanted her to get better after the transplant."

Tiny Kelsey was born after 32 weeks when doctors at the Queen Elizabeth Maternity Hospital in Birmingham carried out a Caesarean section. He weighed in at a fighting four pounds three ounces and spent several days in the special baby care unit.

But when Yvonne, who lives in Little Haywood, Staffordshire, first wanted another baby after the liver transplant operation she thought it was an impossible dream.

She recalls: "After the transplant the doctors said I shouldn't get pregnant for the first few months as my health would suffer. After a year though, I felt so much better that I started to long for a child. I felt that it was something that would really make our marriage complete, especially as Roy didn't have any children of his own."

"I told Roy how I felt and he said he desperately wanted a baby too. At first we didn't dare tell the doctors — we were worried that they would say it was out of the question. Even-

tually we plucked up the courage and told them. Roy and I could hardly believe it when they said they could see no problems."

Within three months Yvonne was delighted to find herself pregnant. But her joy was short-lived. Weeks later doctors discovered she was suffering from hydatidiform mole — a very rare gynaecological condition — and the pregnancy was terminated.

Yvonne recalls: "I was absolutely devastated, especially as the doctors said I shouldn't get pregnant again for at least 12 months. The problem was nothing to do with my former liver condition — it was totally unrelated."

For 12 months Yvonne counted each day go by. The agonising wait seemed endless. Then, at last Yvonne was given the all-clear and within a month she had conceived.

This time the pregnancy went perfectly and was carefully monitored by two top medical teams. Heading the obstetrics team was consultant Professor John Newton, while consultants Paul McMaster and John Buckels led the transplant team.

Although Yvonne was now 99 per cent healthy doctors were worried that her age could cause problems. Women who have babies later in life run a higher risk of giving birth to a baby suffering from Down's

syndrome or spina bifida.

As a result Yvonne decided to have tests to determine how healthy the baby was.

She recalls: "We decided that if the baby was handicapped in any way I would have the pregnancy aborted. We felt that if anything should ever happen to me in the future the baby would have no mother to look after it. We weren't prepared to take that risk."

"But I prayed that the baby would be perfectly healthy as I really didn't want to lose it. If it had actually come to it I don't know if I would have been able to go ahead with another termination."

Tests

Fortunately the tests showed that Yvonne and Roy's baby was perfectly normal, and the pregnancy was allowed to continue until Yvonne's blood pressure increased dramatically. Then the obstetrics team decided a Caesarean operation was needed to bring Kelsey safely into the world.

Like other transplant patients Yvonne has to take anti-rejection drugs for the rest of her life. Luckily the drug — cyclosporin — had no effect on Kelsey's development, although Yvonne has been advised not to breastfeed as her milk will contain high levels of the drug.

Now everyone at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital transplant unit is delighted with the progress of mother and son.

Transplant consultant John Buckels says: "We are thrilled for Yvonne. She's a shining example of how healthy someone can be after a liver transplant. There is a lot of misconception that transplant patients are left in a chronic invalid state. But there is no halfway house — we either win



Roy and Yvonne Munroe with their baby: a shining example of how healthy a patient can be after a liver transplant

or lose. Yvonne is one of the winners and she has gone on to prove how healthy she is by having a baby.

"We only take on patients for transplant when we think they are approaching the final stages of their lives and only have a few months left."

"Liver conditions are very complex in that people only need transplant if they are dying, but they have to be healthy enough to survive the operation."

And senior obstetrician Professor Newton says: "Several women who have had kidney transplants have had babies but Yvonne has led the way for women liver transplant patients. After any transplant there is a period of recovery and once the patient is back to reasonable health and says she wants a baby, the obstetricians, physicians and surgeons discuss the best time for the woman to get pregnant."

"In Yvonne's case everyone agreed that a planned pregnancy was best as we could

monitor the drugs we gave to her."

Until the birth of her first son, Hylton, Yvonne had always been very healthy. As a teenager she had been extremely active, excelling at gymnastics, athletics and swimming. She even captained the school netball team.

But after Hylton's birth she became jaundiced. She recalls: "I was just tired all the time and the doctor recommended bed rest. I worked as a secretary and I had to take a couple of months off to recover from the birth."

"I certainly didn't realise then just how ill I was. But I gradually got worse until I had to give up work altogether."

"I'll never forget the day I was told I needed a transplant — it came right out of the blue. They were looking at the results of a test and suddenly started talking about a liver transplant. It didn't really sink in straight away as I was so shocked. But I felt so ill that was glad they were doing something to help me."

"Just before my transplant I

had become very overweight and tired easily. I also suffered memory loss and felt very confused all the time."

Once doctors at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham had decided Yvonne needed a liver transplant it was just a matter of time to find a suitable donor. Two weeks later the fateful phone call came through — a donor had been found.

Yvonne recalls: "Every time the telephone rang I jumped a mile. I had one false alarm when I was asked to come to the hospital but when I got there they told me it was off apparently the liver was damaged and couldn't be used."

"I was very disappointed but luckily they found another donor the very next day."

Roy, also 39, stayed with Yvonne until she was taken to the operating theatre.

The operation went smoothly and was a complete success. Just seven and a half weeks later she was allowed home.

UK report sounds the alarm bell

Cervical cancer threat to female smokers

By Ann Kent

AN article published in the Lancet shows a direct physical link between cigarette smoking and cervical cancer.

In theory, it should make absolutely no difference to women's smoking habits.

After all, the risks of dying from lung cancer are five times greater, yet women still smoke. They smoke despite the risks of heart disease, arterial disease (in which a limb might need to be amputated), and despite their much higher chances of stroke.

In practice, however, the Lancet report may give young women smokers the incentive they need to give up. Almost a third of women have the habit and they are slower to give it up than men. Despite all health education efforts in the UK 27 per cent of girls aged 15 to 16 are smokers and their numbers are not declining.

The Lancet report might change this because, while the traditional disease of smoking afflict older people and seem a lifetime away, cervical cancer is a disease with which young women are all too familiar.

Although it claims "only" 2,200 lives in the UK annually, four million cervical smears are taken every year.

In some parts of the country one in 10 of these will show signs of abnormality. Only a

very small percentage of them will go on to develop into cervical cancer (although we now know that smoking makes this much more likely).

At London's Royal Northern Hospital, of 2,000 new patients seen with abnormal smears, only about 40 will have cervical cancer. Yet the effects on women who are called back for further investigation of what is a mere suspicion are devastating.

Albert Singer, a leading authority on cervical cancer, said four out of five women who came to his treatment centre at the Royal Northern showed signs of distress, usually psycho-sexual problems.

"Many of the girls are in their early twenties. This is the first event which has shocked them to thinking about their own mortality," Singer estimates that approximately 80 per cent of the women coming to him for treatment are smokers.

Other studies have shown that, while the medical profession regards the treatment of abnormal cells on the neck of the womb as precautionary, the women feel they have a disease striking right in the most intimate and sensitive parts of their bodies.

They become frantic that they may lose their chance of motherhood. They lose interest in sex and they often become deeply depressed.

The most recent on these reactions has been carried out by Professor Martin Vessey, of Oxford University, and Tina Posner, of the Policy Studies Institute.

They interviewed 153 women about their feelings after hearing their smears were abnormal, after being investigated by medical microscope (colposcopy) and after surgical treatment.

The women did not see their smears as an indication of possible cancer, but as warning that they had the disease.

The results, set out in a book to be published soon, show that doctors have underestimated the pain and discomfort of treatment and give too little information about the condition itself.

The authors write: "Well women, who may be symptomatic, can be rendered passive patients, feeling helpless in the face of a threat to their wellbeing, and fearful of their body's 'contamination'... healing requires attention to the personal and social meaning of medical intervention as much to the physical state of the cervix."

Reassurance, warmth and understanding from doctors and nurses and friends have all been shown to be important in providing support for women as they go through the medical process.

A major complaint of the women interviewed was the way in which their privacy was invaded. The book recommends that clinic doors should be locked during examination

and treatment — and that observers should only be admitted with the patient's permission.

In the past there has been an element of "victim blaming" in medical attitudes to the disease. Doctors who carried out the Lancet research admitted that there had been a reluctance to believe in the biological links between smoking and cancer.

Now it has been established that it is the physical effects of smoking which explain the higher incidence of cervical cancer in cigarette smokers, and not their risk-taking sexual lifestyle.

Singer said that doctors had been "chauvinistic and presumptuous" in linking the disease to sexual promiscuity in women. Now it was known that the number of partners a husband or boyfriend had was just as relevant.

One of the main triggers for cervical cancer is the genital wart virus, which is transmitted during sexual intercourse. However, this virus is extremely common, difficult to treat, and most people who carry it do not go on to develop cervical cancer.

Posner and Vessey's book suggests that women should not be routinely asked about their sexual history. "In asking such questions doctors are using their authority to gain access to privileged information: this may add to the sense of invaded privacy."

● **Prevention of Cervical Cancer: A Patient's View**, by Tina Posner and Martin Vessey (The King's Fund Publishing, £6.95).

Wanted: 22,000 teeth

THE search is on in Britain for 22,000 freshly extracted teeth. They are needed for research into the possibility that radioactivity from nuclear installations may cause childhood leukaemia.

Physicists at Bristol University, southwest England, have chosen teeth for the project because they are known to be accumulators of bone-seeking radionuclides such as plutonium.

The researchers will use a technique developed at the university to measure alpha-radioactivity in individual teeth. This will be done by storing teeth on a special type of plastic film material that is very sensitive and highly selective in recording the tracks of nuclear particles.

Analysis of 22,000 teeth is part of a research project being carried out by the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority's research laboratory at Harwell, northwest of London, with government funding. It seeks to measure alpha-radioactivity from both naturally occurring alpha-radionuclides and from man-made sources, notably plutonium. Plutonium levels are expected to be much lower than natural levels.

Health authorities which are being asked to send both permanent teeth removed from children for orthodontic purposes and deciduous teeth, will also provide Bristol University with details of the patients.

Obesity gene found by UK scientists

By Roger Highfield

A GENETIC factor that predisposes people to obesity has been found by scientists, it was announced recently at the British Association meeting in Oxford.

Dr James Scott, head of the division of molecular medicine at the MRC Clinical Research Centre in Harrow, described how the team had found evidence of an "obesity gene" in 300 patients.

The gene normally produces apolipoprotein B, which is used to carry fat and cholesterol in the blood and helps clear them from the blood.

Dr Scott's team found, on analysing the patients' statistics, the two most common forms of the gene in the population are:

● A gene which increases the body's ability to convert food into fat and gives a "very strong" predisposition to obesity. "We think it delivers fat extremely efficiently to fat tissue."

● The second gene increased cholesterol levels in the blood, predisposing patients to heart disease.

"Now we are getting some clues about the cause of obesity, which was a complete black box until now. It is unfair to say some people just eat too much."

In all, there are a large number of genes involved in processing fat in the body. Slight variations in any one or more of these genes may increase the risk of heart disease, said Dr Scott.

Some may be highly sensitive to genetic change because they play key roles in the process.

"Add these genetic changes together with an environmental component which is hostile, like bacon and eggs or any food high in saturated fats, and one has a major predisposition to heart disease," said Dr Scott.

A new drug to treat high levels of cholesterol has been designed specifically to block the main enzyme responsible for making cholesterol. But the drug was not available yet in Britain.

Intriguingly, it seems that evolution favoured those genes which now make us susceptible to heart disease.

Dr Scott said there was a school of thought supporting the idea that primitive man with higher levels of cholesterol would have fared better in conditions of stress.

"Genes which led to high levels of blood cholesterol, glucose and fat may well have had selective advantage at the time, making us better able to deal with very hostile environments, such as escaping from predators."

"Today those genes are what lead to the high level of diabetes and heart disease."

● Within 10 years scientists will be able to carry out the first "gene transplant" to treat hereditary disease, said Prof Sir David Weatherall, of the John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford.

Some hereditary diseases such as cystic fibrosis are caused by a single defective gene. Scientists will probably use viruses to infect cells and transplant healthy genes to treat such genetic defects "within five to 10 years."

However, there are several problems to overcome first. ● A way must be found to transplant new gene without disrupting existing genes in the body.

● A way to "switch on" the new genes must be found. ● More efficient ways to transfer new genes into millions of cells must be found. Viruses look the most promising, he said.

It will soon be possible to screen people to see if they are susceptible to diabetes, said Dr John Bell of Oxford University. Genes that make people more susceptible to diabetes, said Dr John Bell of Oxford University. Genes that make people more susceptible to diabetes have been identified, making screening for the condition a possibility.

"We are much closer to putting together the molecular pieces of the diabetes puzzle," he said.

When working at Stanford University he and co-workers found that changes in a single chemical unit of a protein in the body can make someone susceptible to diabetes. "That change can make the difference between susceptibility to the disease."

Individuals with two "susceptibility genes" have 110 times the risk of developing diabetes.



The Hollywood version: Marlene Dietrich in 1940, when the woman with a cigarette was shown as a sultry seductress

FAMILY DOCTOR

By DR ALLAN BRUCKHEIM

STROKE OCCURS WHEN BLOOD FLOW TO BRAIN IS DECREASED

QUESTION: I've just heard a story about a friend who died suddenly from a stroke, yet I know many people who survived an episode that was diagnosed as stroke without any ill effects. Please clear up my confusion about strokes. Just what happens?

ANSWER: Simply put, a stroke occurs when blood flow to the brain is cut off or decreased. This can be caused by a blood clot lodging in a brain artery (thrombosis), or a break in the artery wall (haemorrhage). Its after-effects can be as mild as a passing weakness or tingling in a limb or as profound as paralysis, coma and death. You see, brain cells cannot store up the energy they make from sugar and oxygen in the blood. If their blood supply stops, they die and the functions they control, such as speech, muscle movement and reason, die with them.

Nearly two-thirds of all strokes result from blockage due to arteriosclerosis, also called hardening of the arteries. Over time, sticky fatty substance (plaque) builds up in the lining of the blood vessels (like corrosion in a water pipe) until the pipe either bursts or clogs up.

About 10 per cent of the time, a mini-

stroke called a TIA (transient ischemic attack) precedes a major stroke. Among other things, a TIA can cause a brief "black-out" or "whiteout" or blurred vision in one eye. And though a TIA doesn't last long, one-third of all TIA victims can expect a disabling stroke within five years. So it's important to consult with your doctor.

If arteriosclerosis is the culprit, a swishing sound called a bruit (pronounced brew-ee) will be heard when the stethoscope is applied to the carotid arteries, located on each side of the neck. If someone has a lot of TIAs, more sophisticated tests will be ordered to pinpoint the narrowed vessel.

QUESTION: What causes chest pain, if it is not a heart attack?

ANSWER: Although heart attack is the most serious, there are other possible causes for chest pain. The chest contains sections of the gastrointestinal system, the pulmonary system, the cardiovascular system and quite a few bones, muscles and ligaments, all of which can be a source of pain.

After the cardiovascular system has been checked out, your physician probably will examine your gastrointestinal system next. Conditions in the stomach, gallbladder,

spleen, pancreas and intestines, although these organs aren't located in the chest, can cause pain that feels as if it were from the chest.

If the gastrointestinal system checks out OK, the next possibility is that your pain is musculoskeletal. Your physician may palpate or press on various muscles in your chest wall or ask you to stretch into various positions to see if this reproduces the pain.

If all of these tests fail to show a source of pain, you may undergo another set of cardiovascular tests, in the hopes that symptoms will have shown up that allow for a diagnosis. It is possible that you and your physician will never learn what is causing your chest pain. It is also possible that, despite all the tests, an underlying problem will be missed, both you and your physician will have to learn the best way to manage your pain. This may include simply taking a pain reliever or warm baths or holding hot water bottles to the painful area. A moderate exercise programme of walking and stretching also may help you manage your chest pain.

1988 TRIBUNE MEDIA SERVICES, INC.

New medical device can save heart attack victims

NEW YORK, (Reuters): A device that automatically determines if shock waves should be delivered to a faltering heart can save the lives of many heart attack victims outside the hospital, a new US study said recently.

Sudden heart attacks claim about 400,000 victims in the United States each year and are the leading cause of death in men between 20 and 65 years old.

Many heart attack victims with ventricular fibrillation, — unco-ordinated heartbeats — can be saved if treated promptly with electric shock or drugs, the study published in the latest issue of the New England Journal of Medicine said.

However, the study said logistical problems and liability concerns have limited the use of the electrical shock devices.

In a study of 1,287 patients who had a heart attack outside of the hospital, nearly twice as many victims survived who were treated with the device by firefighters who arrived at the scene before paramedics could deliver treatment.

The device, called an automatic external defibrillator, is relatively simple to use and requires only a minimal amount of training, ranging from four hours to 20 hours, said the group of Seattle-based researchers who conducted the study.

The researchers, led by

Douglas Weaver of the University of Washington, said police and others who provide first aid in medical emergencies should be trained to use the device.

Thirty per cent of 276 patients initially treated by firefighters survived. In contrast, only 19 per cent of 228 patients survived who were given only basic emergency treatment until paramedics arrived.

The automatic defibrillator was developed in the late 1970s and has been refined so that newer units use electronic processors to analyse the heart's rhythm.

The unit detects unusual heart beats and advises the user to deliver an electric shock.

TELEVISION

The idiot box should be used selectively, wisely

Is your child a TV addict?

By Joe Mears

WHEN a class of primary school pupils was asked recently how it had spent its holidays, one pupil recited the name of 69 television programmes he had watched.

Everyone knows that whether it be soap operas or cartoons, the talk at school each morning begins with: "Did you see...?"

And many mothers admit to breathing a sigh of relief when children's programmes come on at the end of a tiring day.

Yet, years ago, kids survived without television. They were forced to rely on their own resourcefulness for entertainment — reading books and playing games.

Now 90 per cent of homes have a television and the average person spends four hours a day in front of it. The debate is heating up.

While children now spend 20 per cent of their waking hours glued to the screen, the question on every mother's lips is: "Can it really be good for them?"

Many teachers use TV as resource material in the classroom. And some parents, too, feel that TV promotes conversation rather than blocks it. The TV to them, is almost another member of the family.

The Sesame Street TV series is widely thought of as a brilliant example of good children's TV. It is educational and, over the past 19 years, has not only informed kids, but brought them great delight!

But speech therapist Dr Pam Enderby, says young children who watch too much TV could be in grave danger of becoming educationally sub-normal. Some toddlers even find it difficult to speak coherently, because of the hours they spend in front of the box.

According to her, parents no longer seem to spend valuable time with their children, reading them bedtime stories and helping them develop their speech and understanding. This TV-watching trend could result in seven out of every

Television is suffering from a bad press, as more and more statistics prove how damaging it is to kids. But parents can minimise the damage

1,000 kids having learning problems in their pre-school years.

Dr Enderby explains the problem: "People seem to think that children will just learn to talk by themselves without any input. But speech is a taught skill and the people best equipped to teach it, are the mums and dads."

And mums and dads don't seem to be talking to their kids — that's one of the conclusions of researcher John Balding's survey of the after-school activities of 20,000 youngsters, some of which watched 20 to 30 hours of TV a week.

Ann Phoenix of London University disagrees with these ideas, believing the fuss about kiddies' viewing habit to be over-exaggerated. In fact, watching TV could be good for

them, she says.

"To a baby, television is much more varied and interesting than any mobile can be," says Ms Phoenix.

She points out that a mother can't be expected constantly to interact with her baby. So long as the baby gets plenty of attention during the day there is no reason why short periods in front of the box will do it any harm. But how much television can kids really understand?

Research has revealed that even the very youngest child enjoys movement, colour and sound and is able to pay attention for varying degrees of time.

Dr Alan Leslie, a child researcher, explains: "Even young babies can understand simple events. Babies between six months and a year love to see the same thing happen over

and over again. Things like adverts which are repeated will attract them most.

"By the age of two, children can understand a simple storyline. And between two and three, children have a pretty good intuitive understanding of social situations."

But given that children can understand quite a lot of what they see on television, should they still be watching it?

All sides will agree: if a young child must watch television, it ideally should do so in the company of an adult who will not only be able to monitor its watching but can help to child to understand.

Programmes need to be chosen carefully, with the child's age group and particular interests in mind. Kids should not just be dumped in front of a screen indiscriminately.

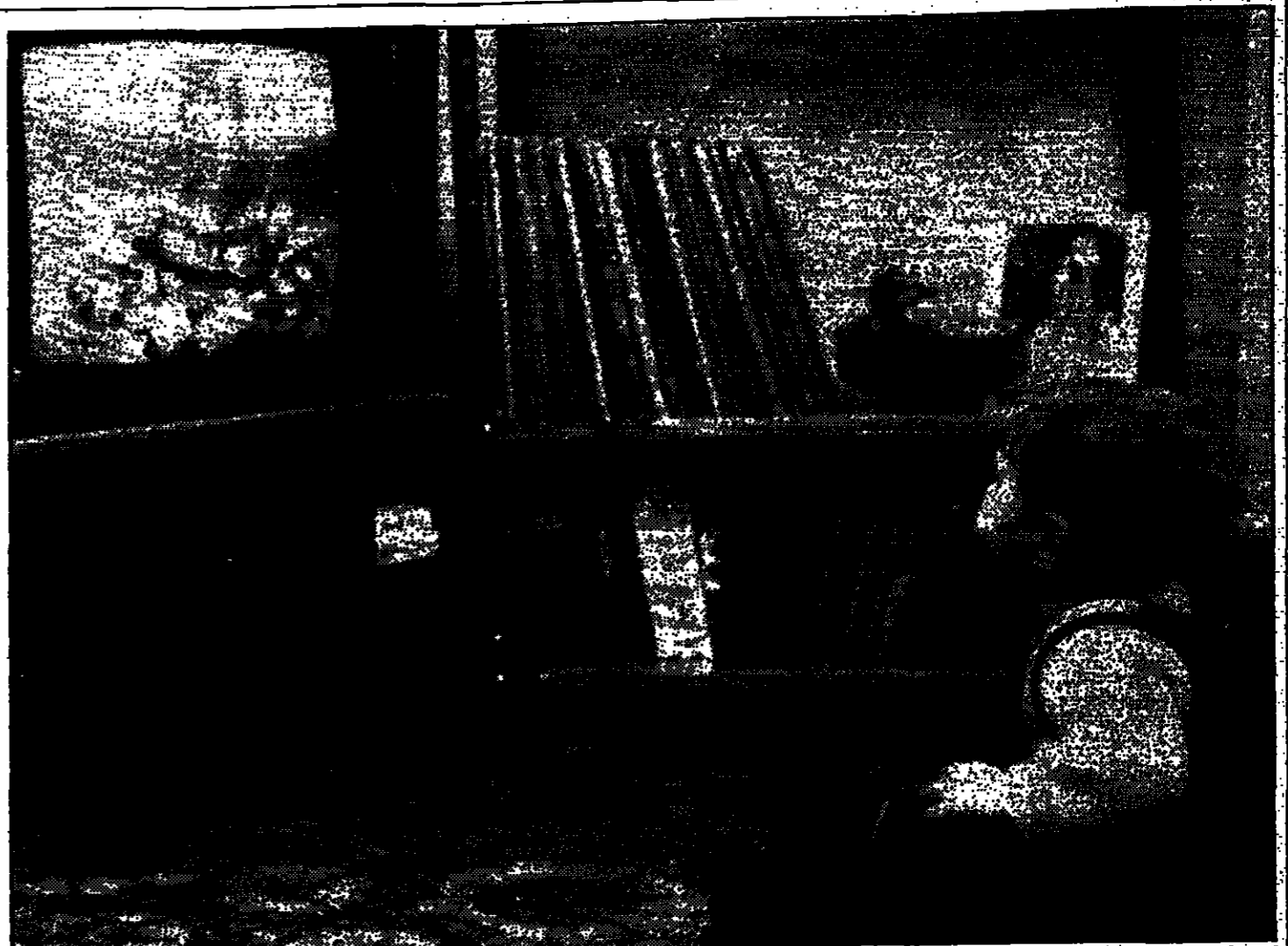
With more specific viewing, children can actually learn from TV, absorbing attitudes and ideas from it, which it will find useful.

Violence

Even parents fears about children watching violence on TV can be allayed, according to David Buckingham, a speaker at the 1987 conference on Television and the Family.

He says: "Just because children see violent things on television doesn't automatically transform them into thugs. You have to see it in a context. All sorts of other factors come into play, such as friends, family and toys ... violence directed against objects and toys is very different from violence directed against human beings. And violence which is presented in a less realistic context, such as a cartoon, may be seen as less serious."

But Faith Hall, founder of TV Action Group, based in Gloucester, believes that young Tom and Jerry fans, cannot rest assured. She says: "Children do learn by imitation. They will want to mimic what they see on television. It therefore follows that they will be influenced by



To a baby, television is much more varied and interesting than any mobile can be, says a doctor at London University.

violence they see on the screen. After all, Michael Ryan, the Hungerford mass murderer, was addicted to watching Rambo videos.

Faith feels all television is damaging and won't allow her kids to watch anything at all on the box. In fact, they haven't even got a television, and according to her, the result is more hobbies, reading and conversation. All her children play musical instruments and one loves woodwork and model-building.

What is more, her offspring attend a Rudolf Steiner school, where TV is totally banned. In these schools, teachers believe television interferes with a child's natural and healthy development.

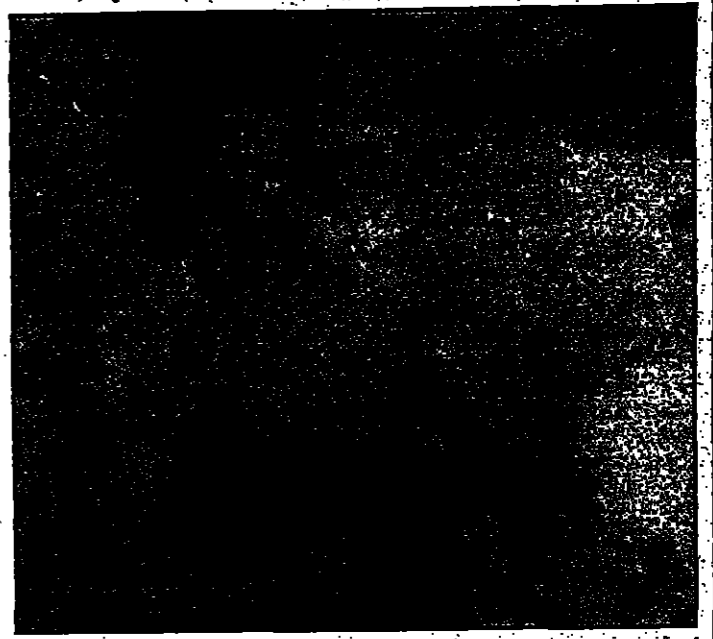
Faith explains: "I don't want my children to learn about life from a machine. I want them taught by a real person. Television certainly can't replace a caring adult. It can't

help their physical development or practical skills — or make up for personal friends and family love. But it is instantly on tap throughout our society today and the sooner a child is helped to use it wisely, the better.

In Denver, Colorado, USA, a mother of two, Marie Winn, felt so guilty about putting her kids in front of the set, she decided to wage a TV turn-off campaign, to see how it affected family life.

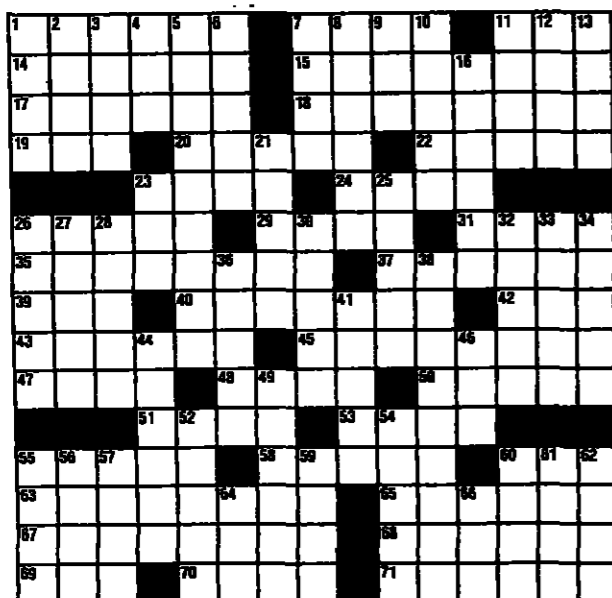
She advertised in a local paper to get other interested families to join in. And many did report improved family life, more conversation, reading and hobbies. Yet none of them decided to throw away their TVs for good!

Whatever you believe about TV, you'll be hard-pressed to stop your kids from watching it. All you can best hope to achieve, is to stop TV becoming a bad habit.



Children are often influenced by the violence they see on TV. Michael Ryan, the Hungerford mass murderer in the UK, was addicted to watching Rambo videos.

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- 1 Source of warmth
 - 7 Skin opening
 - 11 Amtrak stop
 - 14 Like Swiss scenery
 - 15 Solitary, as a hermit
 - 17 East Indian sailor
 - 18 Make fun of
 - 19 Directional initials
 - 20 Cabinet of a type
 - 22 Adds coloring
 - 23 Sicilian landmark
 - 24 Word with face or heart
 - 26 Sunday song
 - 29 Bargain at court
 - 31 Hole
 - 35 Church
 - 37 Nervous laugh
 - 39 — as Salsam, Tanzania
 - 40 Dark-bodied terns
 - 42 Japanese statesman
 - 43 Grain awn
 - 45 Exalted
 - 47 Mother of Castor
 - 48 Standing
 - 50 Gives a sly look
 - 51 Kind of food
 - 53 A Sprat
 - 54 Preference
 - 55 Indian state
 - 58 Church council site
 - 60 Family favorite
 - 63 Crafty plotting
 - 65 More ventilated
 - 67 Painstaking
 - 68 Play a flute
 - 69 G.I. address
 - 70 Namesakes of violinist Bull
- DOWN**
- 1 Nathan, the patriot
 - 2 Verve
 - 3 Church section
 - 4 Twitch
 - 5 Statue
 - 6 Summer TV fare
 - 7 Persian elf
 - 8 Baseball bird
 - 9 Head or hot starter
 - 10 Gives off
 - 11 Amaze
 - 12 Slot machine sign
 - 13 Wimbledon winners
 - 16 Most frosted
 - 21 Very fast
 - 23 Building section
 - 25 Like some cereal
 - 26 Bike
 - 27 Frighten
 - 28 Very sour
 - 30 Carrying a burden
 - 32 Useful device
 - 34 Encourages
 - 36 Takes off
 - 38 Secusion
 - 41 Linen tape
 - 44 Jungle trek
 - 46 Big —
 - 49 Bring into harmony
 - 52 Friend, south of the border
 - 54 Related on mother's side
 - 56 Popular opera
 - 58 Cut off
 - 59 Normandy town
 - 60 Type of bread
 - 61 Congers
 - 62 Upas or yew
 - 64 Solidify
 - 66 Legendary bird

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

GAMIN MALT EBRO
AMINO OLIO MAIN
BANKTELLER BRED
STAY VAIN CABLE
WARM MAN
GIBBONS WINKLER
LORANS CALAMINE
ONAND FOX DECAP
BICKERED SINITE
EATCROW CHATEL
REY COIN
JADED POOR SEAT
JRED BANKRUPTCY
BALL ARTE PETER
SNIT GRID AWARE

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
GET YOUR LONG SUIT GOING

Both vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH

♠ J 10 2
♥ A Q 6 2
♦ K J 7 6 2
♣ K J 7 6 2

WEST

♠ Q 7
♥ 10 9
♦ Q 10 9 8 4 2
♣ A 8 3

EAST

♠ K 9 6 5
♥ J 8 7 4
♦ J 7 6 5
♣ Q 5

SOUTH

♠ A 8 4 3
♥ K 5 3
♦ A J 3
♣ 10 9 4

The bidding:

North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 2 NT Pass
3 NT Pass Pass

Opening lead: Ten of ♠

You probably have seen most of the hands and themes in Brian Senior's "Clever Bridge Tricks" (Faber & Faber, 170 pp, paperback. Available from The Bridge World, 39 W. 94th St., New York, N.Y. 10025, at \$8.95 post free), and you will certainly find some of the bidding ideas original, to say the least. But the hands are well selected and of varying degrees of difficulty, to give the reader a good idea of the

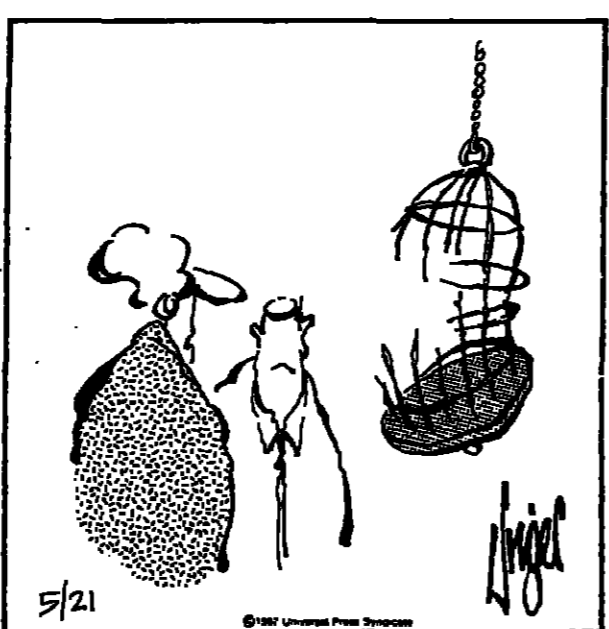
whole field of deceptive tactics by declarer and the defenders.

Unlike the author, this department prefers a bid of three hearts by North to three no trump, to highlight his unbalanced hand; we have seen these holdings make slam at clubs or hearts but go down at three no trump. We do agree with South's decision to suppress his weak four-card major with his square hand. West makes his normal lead of the ten of diamonds, won by the table's king. What now?

"You have at least six top tricks and three more can be established in clubs. If the club queen is held by West nothing can go wrong, as he cannot embarrass you in diamonds. The danger is that East will capture the first club trick and lead a diamond through the A-J."

"In other words, this is one of those hands where if the finesse is working there is no need to take it. Lead a low club from dummy at trick two. If East goes in with the queen, good luck to him, perhaps you should ask him for a game sometime."

Even if you recognize many of the hands, you'll find the book a good read.

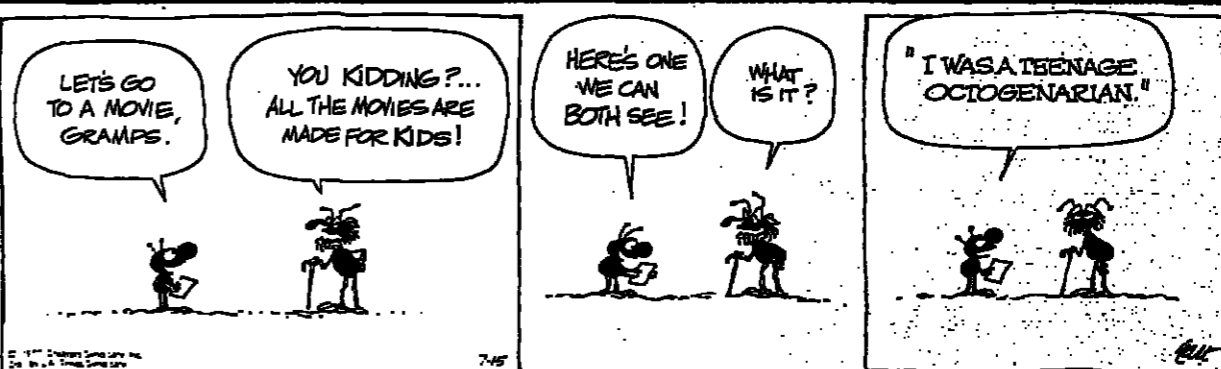


"I wouldn't buy anything else from the Amazon."

THE WIZARD OF ID



B.C.



YOUR STARS

Aries (March 20 - April 18)

You will feel less than your usual self and should try to take it easy. If you have made a promise you should make sure you keep it. Do not do anything that might not be good for you. Be sensible.

Cancer (June 21 - July 21)

You will feel better in the morning than in the afternoon. Do only what has to be done and then take it easy. Make sure you do not eat more than you know is good for you. Be responsive.

Libra (Sept 22 - Oct. 22)

There is no need to take things quite so seriously, it is not as bad as you have led yourself to believe. You should do your best to keep things simple. Make sure you get enough exercise but do not exhaust yourself with it. Be cordial.

Capricorn Dec 22 - Jan 19

Your past frugality will make it easier for you to cope with the financial situation. You will be able to do something you have long wanted to do, but do not exaggerate or exceed the limits of propriety.

Taurus (April 19 - May 19)

You will not be at your best today. Try to keep your mind off work. You must do all you can to avoid making a complicated situation even worse. Be methodical.

Leo (July 22 - Aug 21)

Something that you have been trying to get the hang of will suddenly 'click.' You will feel rather euphoric and should do your best to face up to reality. You will be able to do something that is of great interest to you. Be flexible.

Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov. 21)

This is going to be one of those days for you. You should do your best to relax in good company. You would do better to read a good book than to while away the time watching television. Be reasonable.

Gemini (May 20 - June 20)

You would be wrong to say exactly what you think, a little more tact is needed. Make sure you do not spend too much on yourself. The situation you are in is not as bad as it might seem. Be sincere.

Virgo (Aug 22 - Sept 21)

After a morning where you will not feel up to much you will be back to your old self. You should beware of drinking more than you know you should. You should make quite sure you do not allow yourself to be distracted whilst driving.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)

You should not be too quick to decline an offer or proposal consider it carefully first. You will find it easier to deal with a persistent personal problem. Take a little better care of your health. Be more tolerant.

Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb. 18)

A temptation to spend recklessly will have to be combated vehemently. You will be able to do something to increase harmony between yourself and your partner. You have good reason to hold your head high. Be a little more discreet.

Pisces (Feb 19 - March 19)

The general financial situation is complex and you should tread extremely carefully. Make sure you do not do anything that could possibly give offence to a friend or neighbour. You should not expect to have your own way in all things.

Filipino entertainers in Japan to lose jobs

SEVENTY percent of the 40,000 Filipino entertainers in Japan will lose their jobs if the Japanese government implements a new regulation that would result in the limitation of the hiring of foreign talent.

Danilo Olivares, chairman of the Chamber of Industries in Music and Entertainment (Chime) said the Japanese Ministry of Justice is set to impose starting October 1 an 80-square meter floor space requirement on all clubs.

Food and beverage tax will be increased on the same date from Y30,000 to Y300,000 for entertainers who work there for the first time and an additional Y100,000 for the succeeding years of work.

The new minimum salary of \$1,500 monthly for foreign entertainers will be the final blow to club operators, Olivares said.

He said the regulation will adversely affect the already serious employment problem and the economic recovery programme of the country.

Olivares asked Labour Secretary Franklin Drilon and Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus to request the Japanese government to defer implementation of the new regulations for three years to give entertainers time to seek alternative employment.

Five Filipinos deported from Hong Kong

THE Philippine consulate in Hong Kong renewed its warning to the public against illegal recruiters after five Filipinos were repatriated to the country.

Philippine Consul-General Vicente Reyes said Victory Bonald, Cesar Navalaga, Alejandro Dumlao, Winifred Kico and Florita Asuncion had been recruited as construction workers and janitors.

The Filipinos told the Philippine consulate that a certain Evangelina Mak-of-Goldstar Employment Services at 199-201 Johnston Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong promised them jobs after they were admitted there as tourists.

The consul said the victims had waited for about three months.

They said Goldstar's agency here asked them P12,000 each.

Reyes said Holiday Promotions and Training Centre arranged for their trip to Hong Kong.

Tingting fails to make the grade

PRESIDENTIAL sister-in-law Margarita "Tingting" Cojuangco has been telling her classmates at the National Defence College that being a Cojuangco is not a blessing but a burden nowadays.

Tingting completed her course at the NDCP last month, but she failed to make it to the top ten of her class, quite possibly because of who she was.

To land in the magic 10, the president's sister-in-law, needed a grade of 1.5, and many of her classmates thought she'd make it — until the day she defended her thesis on the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

The session lasted for four hours and 30 minutes. One panelist from the University of the Philippines practically "grilled" Tingting Cojuangco's wife who still managed to earn a "high" grade.

But Tingting needed a higher grade to make it to the top ten. So she revised her paper, hoping it would raise her rating. Instead she got a 1.8, lower than her original rating.

Maybe, Tingting should have revised her name instead.

Work cards for Filipino workers in Sabah

FILIPINOS who want to work in Sabah will be required to secure work cards starting next year, said Philippine Ambassador to Kuala Lumpur Pablo Suarez.

Suarez said there are about 200,000 Filipinos in Sabah who had entered Malaysia illegally.

Malaysian authorities claimed that their intention was to give Filipino workers benefits and privileges enjoyed by Malaysian nationals, Suarez said.

However, some diplomatic observers said that the move of the Malaysian government was an offshoot of the revived claim on Sabah by Manila.

Diplomacy, not hostilities will solve border dispute, says Aquino

Anti-Malaysia furore based on error

PRESIDENT Aquino said the anti-Malaysia furore started by a Navy officer and whipped up by a woman Senator over Kuala Lumpur's alleged annexation of the country's Turtle Islands was "unfounded."

"There is no basis for even talking about hostilities," Ms Aquino told a news conference following calls by lawmakers and opposition groups for military and diplomatic action against Malaysia.

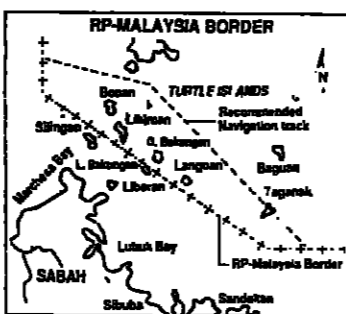
She showed newsmen the latest official map of Malaysia which recognises the Turtle Islands as part of Philippine territory.

The map was given by Kuala Lumpur to Philippine Ambassador Pablo Suarez to show that the chain of six small islands have not been annexed.

"Very clearly, they are not claiming these islands," she said.

The Turtle Islands, 992 kilometres southwest of Manila, lie less than 32 kilometres off the coast of the Malaysian State of Sabah which Manila has staked a claim to.

Ms Aquino said the anti-



The latest official map of Malaysia recognises the Turtle Islands as part of Philippine territory.

Malaysia furore was caused by a Navy officer's erroneous interpretation of a 1984 nautical map published in Washington D.C.

She said that Commodore Juanito Cortez, a Navy district commander in Zamboanga City, may have mistakenly told a group of visiting Congressmen that the "navigation" route indicated in the map between the Turtle Islands and the rest of the Philippine archipelago denotes the new common boundary between the two countries.

The "boundary" referred to was in fact a "navigation" line which helps ocean vessels determine the safest area of passage between the bodies of land.

Gen Renato de Villa, Armed Forces Chief of Staff, told palace newsmen he has ordered Cortez to explain his statement to Rep Jose Yap (PDP-Laban, Tarlac) and five other members of the house committee on national defence.

Furore

Not only did Cortez reportedly tell the Congressmen that Malaysia had annexed the islands, he also told them of Malaysian intrusions into Philippine territorial waters near the islands. Yap immediately urged the Aquino administration file a diplomatic protest with Malaysia.

The furore reached its height when Sen Leticia Ramos-Shahani called for stronger diplomatic and military action against Malaysia. She apologised yesterday on the Senate floor for her baseless accusations against Malaysia.

During the same news conference, Ms Aquino defended the dispatch of a naval task force to the Turtle Islands as "necessary ... to protect our own people."

She, however, ruled out an armed solution to the country's border dispute with Malaysia, saying the conflict should be resolved by diplomacy.

Asked by a reporter whether she thought there was any possibility of war with Malaysia, Ms Aquino replied, "I don't think there is any. I don't think we should even talk about hostilities."

"I don't even want to talk about that," she told a persistent reporter who asked whether she would invoke the 1951 RP-US Mutual Defence Pact as demanded by an opposition leader.

Ms Aquino said Manila and Kuala Lumpur would hold talks soon on their territorial dispute over the Spratly Islands in the South China Sea, which are also claimed in whole and in part by China, Taiwan and Vietnam.

"This could perhaps be the beginning of other bilateral talks," she added.

Filipinos allowed to carry guns

THE House of Representatives passed on second reading a bill authorising citizens to carry firearms outside their residences.

The bill is designed to help citizens protect their own lives and properties as well as control the proliferation of loose firearms, according to Rep. Raul del Mar (Panaghiusa, Cebu City), the main sponsor of the bill.

Del Mar said House Bill No. 51, however, sets strict rules for the issuance of the authority to carry firearms as safeguards against the rise of private armies and a possible increase in the crime rate as in pre-marital law days.

The house decided to reduce the bond requirement for the grand of licences from P50,000 to P20,000 and the fee for securing a special permit to carry from P1,000 to P200.

Rep. Salvador Escudero (KBL, Sorsogon) had earlier objected to the high bond and fees, saying it would mean "breaking the adage that those who have less in life should have more in law."

Disqualified from carrying firearms under the bill are minors, aliens, persons convicted of rebellion, subversion, and related crimes and those convicted of violations of the Firearms and Explosives Law.

The proposed legislation also bans the carrying of firearms, inside churches and other places of worship, government offices, places of amusement, and public plazas.

Violation of the rules to be set by a Firearms Regulatory Board, headed by the secretary of national defence, will be punishable by imprisonment and confiscation of firearms.

Licences and permits to carry can only be issued for those types of handguns not used by the military.

Former President Marcos declared a firearms ban when he imposed martial law in 1972, and since then, the carrying of firearms outside the house has been severely restricted.

Diplomats to be sent for re-orientation

FILIPINO diplomats may have gotten so used to cosmopolitan living in key cities of the world that they could have lost their feel of the Filipino masa.

To enhance their understanding of the Filipino psyche, the foreign office is launching a "grassroots diplomacy" programme.

The programme, developed by the Foreign Service Institute (FSI), intends to familiarise mid-career and senior officers with barrio living for a month.

It also hopes to re-orient diplomats on the implementation of foreign policy.

The FSI concept paper said the belief that foreign affairs is the "exclusive concern" of a small group of people in government has affected the quality and direction of the country's foreign policy.

It has likewise influenced the attitude of Filipino diplomats toward their country and the people they represent, the paper added.

Internal squabbles dent Filipino hopes

Will the gold medal drought end in Seoul?

THE Olympics is a showcase of strength in sports, in economics and everything. It is because of this fact that sceptics are doubting the medal chances of Philippines which has sent 35 athletes to the Games.

Sure, our athletes are the best in the Philippines. But will they be enough match for the best in the world?

To be rather frank, the Filipino athletes had not gone through such intensive preparations as their counterparts from the United States, the Soviet Union, South Korea and even fellow Southeast Asian countries.

In fact, in boxing, where we are given a fairly good chance of winning our first gold, the six-man team of the Philippines is ill-prepared, all because of political bickering within the leadership of the Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines (ABAP).

And if that's not enough, there are other squabbles within the National Archery Association of the Philippines (NAAP) and the Philippine Amateur Swimming Association (PASA).

It is in boxing where the Philippines had won its first silver medal, courtesy of Anthony Villanueva in the 1964 Tokyo

Olympics. Before Anthony, there was his father Jose "Cely" Villanueva who captured the bronze in boxing in the 1932 Los Angeles Games.

Actually, 1932 was a fine year for the Philippines as it won three bronze medals. Aside from the bronze won by the elder Villanueva, Teofilo Ildelfonso also took third place in swimming and high jumper Simeon Toribio achieved the feat, too, in his event.

Our first bronze came in 1928

Surely our athletes are the best in the Philippines. But will they be enough of a match for the best in the world?

in Amsterdam as Ildelfonso sliced the waters with impunity. Our last bronze was achieved in the 1936 Berlin Games with hurdler Miguel White grabbing it.

This year, Anthony Villanueva is back on the boxing team as a coach. He could be the lucky charm. That is if the local pugilists still pack power following the squabbles.

The six-man boxing contingent is composed of Leopoldo Cantancio, Leopoldo Serrantes, Robert Jalnaiz, Orlando Dolente, Emmanuel Legaspi and

Michael Hormillosa. Of course, Filipinos are looking forward to a glorious run by golden girl Lydia de Vega. She may win the first heat but whether she will make the finals is another story.

Even De Vega herself claims that the gold medal is just a dream and to be positive about winning it is foolhardy.

Athletics has four representatives in De Vega, Agrifina de la Cruz, Nenita Adan and Hector

impossible either.

Cerdana surprised everyone by pulling the rug from under illustrious kiegler Olivia "Bong" Coo and Paeng Nepomuceno who did not make good in the Hongkong FIQ. Arianne salvaged the Olympic slot, however, as she topped the final qualifying round in Florida. And to think that Cerdana came from a year's lay-off following motherhood.

Still, Cerdana is a bright medal prospect. She is no stranger to pressure having represented the country in the World FIQ.

Other athletes in Seoul are Basilia Ygnalaga and Rowell Merto (archery), Akiko Thomson, Eric Buhain, Rene and Lee Concepcion (swimming), Josellito Santos, Norberto Oconer, Domingo Villanueva and Bernardo Rimerin (cycling), Ferival Allan Alge (fencing), Benjamin MacMurray, Gerry Dingo, and John Baylon (judo), Edgardo Maerina (rowing), Ramon Solis, Samuel Alegado and Gregorio Palanca (weightlifting), Nestor Soriano (yachting), Richard Paz (wind-surfing), Dean Manibog and Florante Tirante (wrestling).

Will the quest for the gold medal finally end, or will the gold medal be as elusive as ever?

Bege.

If there are two events wherein we can stamp our class, these are taekwondo and tepin bowling. However, both events are demonstration sports and will be in the Olympics calendar officially only in the 1992 Barcelona Games.

For sure, jins Stephen Fernandez and Monsieur de Rosario will give a good account of themselves despite this event being the national sport of the Koreans. A silver would be good enough for both. A gold in Seoul is not that

Americans may transfer bases if negotiations fail

UNITED STATES Secretary of Defence Frank Carlucci warned in Washington that the US might find alternatives to its military facilities in the Philippines if negotiations on compensation failed, Agency France-Presse reported.

At Malacanang, President Aquino remained hopeful the Philippines and the US will resolve their differences on the future of the bases and sign agreement beneficial to both countries.

Aquino was asked what options the Philippines had if the US rejected the \$1.2-billion annual payment Manila is demanding from Washington for the use of six military facilities here, including Clark air base and Subic naval base.

"I would like to believe that with Secretary (Raul) Manglapus there personally indicating and proposing our options, we will arrive at an agreement which will be of mutual benefit and which will greatly benefit the Filipino people," she said.

Manglapus left for Washington last weekend to lobby for the increased payments. Before he left, he told reporters US Secretary George Shultz agreed in principle to the Philippine demand of \$1.2 billion "in various creative ways" when he visited Manila last July.

Aquino refused to say whether she would support ending the RP-US Military Bases Agreement after 1991. That would require a two-thirds approval of the 23-member Senate where opposition to the bases is strong.

In a statement released after a meeting with Manglapus, Carlucci said the US had a "strong preference for continuing the current basing arrangements in the Philippines." It was actually a reiteration of a statement of Shultz before his July trip to Manila.

The two countries have been discussing since April the terms for the last two years of the MBA. The agreement was signed in 1947 and amended in 1979. It expires in 1992 and can be terminated with one year's notice.

The US, which rejects the idea of paying "rent" to allies, has offered \$489 million up from the \$351 million budgeted for the next fiscal year beginning Oct 1.

"If agreement proves to be impossible for whatever reason, there are alternatives that are feasible both economically and militarily," Carlucci said.

In his statement, Carlucci reiterated US support for the Philippines and Aquino. But he cautioned that "carrying out the US share of the mutual security task between US and the Philippines, there are real limits to our flexibility."

Manglapus, was pessimistic after a meeting with Shultz and Deputy Secretary of State John Whitehead.

"There has been nothing to justify my saying that we are closer together," he said.

The US is reportedly studying the possibility of moving the bases to the Mariana Islands in the Pacific, which are American territory.

Smokey Mountain scavengers say no to relocation plans

By Kathleen Callo

MANILA. (Reuter): Twenty thousand people in the Philippine capital live on garbage. They make money collecting and selling it. Their houses sit on it.

The government wants to get rid of "Smokey Mountain," Manila's biggest dump site, but the scavengers who sift through the trash each day say they won't leave.

They are proud to be Smokey Mountain people," says father Benigno Beltran, 42, who has worked there for 10 years.

"They have had bad experiences being relocated. This is their home."

The Catholic priest, in a T-shirt, grey sneakers and slacks sits outside a white wooden church built on years of decomposed garbage. A blue towel hangs down his back like a cape.

He excuses himself, changes into his priestly robes, then holds a mass for 600 people crammed in and around the chapel.

President Corason Aquino has announced plans to convert the site into a housing area and train scavengers for other work.

Gregorio "Junior" Romero, 24, is one of 200 scavengers due to start new jobs this month. He says he will never leave his birthplace but describes training he is receiving to be a computer data encoder as a chance for a new life.

"I want to develop myself," he says.

Smokey Mountain is much like the city's other sprawling squatter areas, where harsh realities are often laid bare.

Junior stands on a crude wooden stage with a corrugated tin roof next to the church. Three feet (a metre) away, two coffins are on display.

Laughing children scramble past, then stop at one coffin and peer in at the smashed, bloated face of Carlos Navarro, stabbed to death in a fight a week earlier.

The 23-year-old scavenger —

make-up and four band-aids covering machete cuts near his eyes and lips — looks nothing like the smiling youth in a photograph resting on the coffin.

His brother, Eduardo, 18, killed in the same fight, lies in the other box.

"The family doesn't have the money to bury them," says Manuel Manarang, a community organiser. "They asked the priest if they could leave them here for now."

Wooden and cardboard shacks cover the 20-acre (70-foot) mound facing Manila bay and bordered by two fetid rivers. It was once a quiet fishing village.

Thirty years of garbage later and renamed for the smoke rising from burning refuse, scavengers hoist they can make 70 pesos (\$3.30) a day selling plastic, metal and cardboard for recycling, topping the minimum wage in a factory.

They say they are afraid of losing that income now that rubbish is being thrown elsewhere and the dump site phased out.

The 3,000 tons of trash that trucks used to dump each day had dwindled to 300 tons, Beltran said. If a government plan goes through, by the end of the year no more trucks will come.

The US Agency for International Development has given \$50,000 to restrain scavengers. Eight state agencies are working to eventually level the mound and build houses.

The project has raised some hopes but the people tend to be sceptical. Sometimes the government doesn't listen, they say.

A cool breeze off the bay carried the smell of trash inland.

Downwind, a new church built by the city on the site's highest point last February stood empty, its doors locked.

"They never asked our advice," Beltran said. "They just put it there, right next to where the trucks dump garbage. No one goes there. It stinks."



The Loyzaga brothers, Joey and Chito beam as they receive the championship trophy.

was a team effort. Everybody contributed — from the ball boy to the players who didn't see action tonight."

There was, however, no doubting the stellar role which Jaworski played in putting it all together — all the pieces of a champion team which rose above the adversity of a relatively so-so line-up to make it the finals by surviving a sudden death showdown with San Miguel Beer, and once there, playing its guts out against a high-powered Purefoods team earlier fancied as pre-play-off picks to win by the odds-makers.

And so who really cares now if the Anejos made it, took the deciding game 3 and 4, with Purefoods' former playing coach, Ramon Fernandez, in the "freezer", dumped there by company president Rene Buhain following an appalling sub-par performance in game 1 which the Hotdogs lost?

As Jaworski himself said by way of a curt comment on the benching of Fernandez all throughout game 2 in an act of the Purefoods management that caught the PBA crowd by surprise and which later caused a stir all the way to the halls of Congress when the freeze was made to apply to games 3 and 4, "that's the problem."

He's right.

On the one hand, though, the unexplained decision of Purefoods to put its most experienced and highest-priced performer on ice after the Hotdogs' game 1 setback somehow raises a question mark as to how the series would have gone if Fernandez had been in there all the way.

Still and all, the Fernandez controversy notwithstanding, that was one great Anejo Rum team which took the floor against Purefoods in the finals of a tournament where it had been frustrated three times in the past (in 1983 and 1984 while still carrying the colours of Gilbey's Gin, and in 1986 as Ginebra).

It went as stretched to the five-game limit, but the three games that it won were all punishing, down-the-wire battles.

In game 3, it had to claw back from 15 points down to make it, and in game 4, which took place last Tuesday the 13th, Anejo Rum looked like it was gone and headed for game 5 when it fell back by as much as 19 points in the third quarter.

But gutsily, with Jaworski

leading his boys on the long climb back, the Anejos patiently nibbled at Purefoods' lead to send the game into overtime with Jaworski himself pumping in the field goal that locked the score at 119-all at the end of the regulation period and forged the extension.

In overtime, it was championship class prevailing over youth and inexperience as the Anejos outscored the Hotdogs, 16 to 5, to wrap it all up.

With the victory, Jaworski made it two PBA championships in three years for a team which he first joined in 1984 following the break-up of the Toyota ballclub the previous season.

Along with his old Toyota buddy, Francis Arnaiz (now retired and living in Los Angeles, California), Jaworski opted to sign up with La Tondena, then headed by Honeyboy Palanca, even as most of his former teammates players suited up for Manila Beer.

Now that he has won the All Filipino and the Open in a dual role as player and coach, all that's left for Jaworski to pull off is to win the upcoming Reinforced conference. At the rate the Anejos are going, that shouldn't be a very tough mountain to scale.



Scavengers at Smokey Mountain, Manila's biggest dump, collect rubbish for recycling. Some 20,000 people live on the site.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Officials meet new US Treasury secretary

Ministers to discuss volatile dollar, Third World debt

BERLIN, Sept. 24. (Agencies): Top financial officials from Japan and Western Europe met the new US Treasury secretary for the first time today to discuss the volatile US dollar and the enormous debt of Third World countries.

The meeting was taking place in the framework of the annual joint sessions of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, which lend millions of dollars for development projects. Left-wing groups have been clamouring for the banks to forgive at least some of the debts of poor nations.

The ministers from Japan, Britain, France, and West Germany began talks with US Treasury Secretary Nicholas F. Brady at the closely guarded villa Borsig, a West German government spokesman said. Later today, they were to be joined by the ministers of finance from Italy and Canada, as well as Michel Camdessus, head of the Monetary Fund.

Debts
US officials have taken the lead in opposing forgiveness of debts. Finance officials from other creditor countries are also cool about debt forgiveness, except for the poorest nations where average incomes are \$2 or less a day or less.

A top leader of the International Monetary Fund said on Friday it would be unfair to write off billions of dollars in loans to some poor nations when other countries are paying off their debts.

He spoke on the same day a "counter-congress" of bank critics opened with a plea to can-

cel all Third World debt. A street demonstration has been announced for Sunday.

"There is no intention whatsoever among the members to propose debt forgiveness by cancelling arrears to the fund," said Dutch Finance Minister H. Onno Ruding, chairman of the interim committee. The panel serves as the fund's top policy-making body.

"That would be unfair to other member countries" that have kept up with their payments despite their own difficult financial circumstances, he said.

Benefit
Providing such an unfair benefit would also run contrary to the principle that the fund is a co-operative organisation of 151 member governments, he contended.

Ruding said the same thing goes for the World Bank, the fund's sister organisation, which has the same members.

The bank lends about \$17 billion a year the fund, about \$8 billion.

In recent years, both have concentrated on making loans to Third World countries and putting together loan packages with governments, private banks and other bodies. Most loans are made under conditions designed to get the debtors out of financial trouble and eventually to raise their standards of living.

At the end of April, more than \$2.5 billion were overdue in debts to the fund. Eight countries have been declared ineligible for new loans because of these late payments: Zambia, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Vietnam, Guyana, Liberia, Sudan and

Peru. Another five countries are also in arrears, but fund officials refuse to name them.

Payments
On June 30, the World Bank reported late payments of more than \$699 million due from Guyana, Liberia, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Sierra Leone, Syria and Zambia. It said those countries owe the bank a total of \$2.9 billion.

On Wednesday, former West German Chancellor Willy Brandt suggested that the bank and fund consider forgiving some of the debts owed them.

Third World countries owe an estimated \$1.2 trillion to international and private banks as well as governments.

Pressure for debt reduction has been added by the atmosphere in West Berlin, where informal bank talks have been held this week. Left-wing groups led by the West German Green Party have been denouncing the bank and fund.

Conditions
Critics complain that the conditions for the loans impose austerity programmes on poor countries, with the heaviest impact on their poorer citizens.

West German Finance Minister Gerhard Stoltenberg told reporters on Friday he opposes even partial writing off of debts for the more affluent debtor nations. "Calls for a global solution destroy the credit-worthiness of debtor countries," he said.

The West Germans instead announced on Friday they are contributing over \$900 million to a special \$10.4-billion amount from which the fund is making



West German Finance Minister Gerhard Stoltenberg (right) hands over the contract he has just signed to the president of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Michel Camdessus for France. West Germany will provide a substantial amount of grants to a special facility of the IMF. (Reuters wirephoto)

long-term loans at interest of only one-half per cent. Sixty-two of the poorest countries are eligible.

Stoltenberg also suggested that member governments should agree next spring to an increase of at least 30 to 50 per cent — a total of \$35 billion to \$58 billion — in their contributions to the fund. The move would permit the fund to make more loans.

Japan's Finance Minister Kii-

chi Miyazawa, architect of a new plan on Third World debt, has cancelled his visit to West Berlin because of the failing health of Emperor Hirohito, 87.

Relief
Britain and West Germany have made clear in recent days they put little store by an emerging French plan to provide debt relief for this group, where much of the cash is owed to commercial banks as well as Western govern-

ments. The United States has already indicated it is unwilling to put up new funds for the IMF unless a solution is found.

Developing nations, worried by a worldwide rise in interest rates, have already warned against over-reliance on monetary policy to dampen inflation. But the industrial countries will almost certainly counter that their intervention has been "timely" and necessary to secure steady economic growth.

OPEC Fund approves \$13.32m in new loans

VIENNA, Sept. 24. (OPECNA): The OPEC Fund for International Development approved new loans totalling \$13.32 million to finance projects in agriculture, industry and transport in developing countries.

Burkina Faso will receive \$4.30 million for its Bagre Dam Project which will help alleviate the problem of food shortages by developing agricultural production in the Bagre region of the White Volta river valley.

Under the \$129.37 million project, a total of 7,400 hectares of land will be developed, yielding 55,000 tons of rice annually. In addition, a total of 4,425 hectares of rain-fed land will also be reclaimed, yielding 6,550 tons of vegetables and 4,800 tons of grain each year.

The country will also receive \$5 million to help finance the government's import programme of intermediate and capital goods for the agro-industrial sector.

Contribution
In addition, the fund made a grant of \$1.02 million to the African state to cover its contribution to the common fund for commodities.

This is the 12th loan being extended by the fund to Burkina Faso. Six previous loans were for balance of payments support, while the rest went to finance projects in transport, water supply and education.

Mozambique will receive \$2.82 million for the rehabilitation of the Salamanga limestone quarry. It also aims at supporting the government's efforts to restore and develop the cement industry and to enable the country to meet the acute shortage of the material.

The project will also create new job opportunities and improve living standards in the area where it is to be set up. It is also expected to result in substantial foreign exchange saving and encourage investment in related construction activities.

This is the eighth loan extended by the fund to Mozambique.

SBI delegation for Kuwait

A HIGH-LEVEL delegation from the State Bank of India, headed by K. Govindan, the General Manager of Overseas Operations, is due to arrive in Kuwait tomorrow.

A seminar on NRI bonds, organised by the State Bank NRI Services, will be held on September 28 at the Hotel Plaza.

A new bond scheme, which will be exempt from income, wealth and gift taxes, will be launched shortly exclusively for the benefit of Non-Resident Indians.

N.N. Jha, India's Ambassador in Kuwait, will preside and Govindan will be the main speaker.

Economy maintains fast pace

UK bank lending grew \$8b in August

LONDON, Sept. 24. Britain's money supply and bank lending grew strongly in August, but, though lending didn't match the most pessimistic forecasts, economists say the data show the economy is still growing too fast.

M4 lending, the most widely watched indication of domestic credit, expanded \$5.8 billion (\$8 billion), compared with growth of \$9.2 billion (\$15 billion) in August 1987. Market expectations had been for growth of as much as \$7 billion to \$10 billion, reports the Wall Street Journal.

The lending figures gave the markets a bit of a boost. "We have become conditioned to expecting appalling numbers," said Christopher Anthony, an economist at London brokerage Phillips and Drew.

"But if you look back two or three months, it's still a very buoyant figure."

David Smith, an economist at brokerage William de Broe Hill Chaplin & Co., said that August's rise in bank lending is about level with monthly average so far this year, and that it only

looks good in comparison to July's record rise, which was boosted by a rush for mortgages ahead of the August abolition of a major tax-relief law.

Relief
Starting Aug. 1, groups of unmarried people can't each claim tax relief on mortgages when buying a house together. Smith said that economists overestimated the amount of mortgage lending in August left over from the July rush to buy houses.

Full figures breaking down M4 into types of lending aren't available, but the Committee of London and Scottish Bankers said lending for house purchases accounted for £1.27 billion of their £2.3 billion increase in lending.

The committee's figures represent the eight largest banks in Britain, but exclude building societies, which do most of the mortgage lending in the UK.

Separately, Britain's three largest building societies said they plan to raise their mortgage rates to as much as 12.75 per cent from around 11.5 per cent, effective

Oct. 1.

"After the money supply data, we decided to go ahead, rather than leave our borrowers in uncertainty," said a spokesman for Halifax Building Society. "Even if next Tuesday's trade figures are bad and push up base rates half a point or a point, we won't necessarily need to adjust our mortgage rates again for a while," he added.

Halifax's new mortgage rates will range from 12.45 per cent to 12.75 per cent, up from 11.3 per cent to 11.5 per cent. Abbey National Building Society's mortgage rates will be between 11.3 per cent and 12.75 per cent, while Nationwide Anglia's rate will be 12.75 per cent, spokesmen for the companies said.

The Bank of England also released figures yesterday showing that M0, the narrow measurement of money that includes notes and coins in circulation plus banks' operational balances with the central bank, rose 1 per cent in August, compared to 0.9 per cent growth in July. In the past 12 months, M0 has grown an estimated 7.8 per

cent, well above the government's target of 1 per cent to 5 per cent growth.

Smith said the government must slow the growth of the money supply to stop the economy from expanding at an unsustainable and inflationary rate. He said that the annual rate for M4 should be brought down to about 10 per cent, where it was when the credit boom began in 1986 and that this might require an increase in the base lending rate to 13 per cent to 15 per cent from its current 12 per cent.

"An economy with a balance-of-payments deficit at the highest level as a proportion of gross domestic product since just after the war, and with inflationary pressures in the jobs market, needs the wide monetary aggregate growing at about 17 per cent a year like it needs a hole in the head," he said.

The September figures are expected to be distorted by a mail strike, which may have increased private demand for notes and coins and may have forced small businesses to seek short-term loans.

World Bank loan for Nigeria

LAGOS, Sept. 24. (OPECNA): The World Bank has committed \$1 billion to Nigeria in the next 12 months, according to bank vice president for Africa Edward Cox.

The official told newsmen at the end of a three-day visit here that the loan was subject to the condition that the Nigerian government should continue with its structural adjustment programme (SAP).

He also disclosed that negotiations between the bank and Nigeria for another \$500 million loan would be finalised before the end of the year.

Visit
Cox said that the purpose of his visit was to exchange views with the country's key policy decision-makers.

He held talks with Nigerian President Ibrahim Babangida, as well as the ministers of finance, planning and budget, the head of the civil service and the secretary to the government.

"We discussed the general relationship between the World Bank and Nigeria and how the bank can be of assistance to the country at this time," he said.

Weak oil prices threaten several Third World debtors

LONDON, Sept. 24. (Reuters): Several debt-laden Third World oil exporters will be at risk of economic crisis if the OPEC organisation cannot restore effective output curbs and petroleum prices tumble, bankers and economists said today.

"The 1986 oil collapse was offset slightly by low interest rates. Now rates are higher and the adverse effect on debt would be high indeed," said Paul Luke, an economist at Libra Bank in London.

Weakening crude prices earlier this month led the OPEC president, Riwayan Lukman of Nigeria, to warn members that a repeat of 1986 was possible.

Bankers said some Third World producers, especially Mexico, began protecting themselves against weak oil prices after the 1986 shock by maximising non-oil exports.

But for Nigeria and Venezuela, for instance, oil represented more than 80 per cent of total exports. Ecuador relied on oil for two-thirds of its exports. These countries, along with Mexico, owe foreign debt of about \$170 billion.

Link
Luke, who specialises in Latin American economies, said the link between oil and debt could be seen clearly in the ratio of interest payments to exports of goods and services.

Oil at current prices, below their budget projections, would combine with higher interest rates to push the ratio for Mexico to 33 per cent this year from 29 per cent in 1987 and that for Venezuela to 23 per cent from 20.

Another fall in oil prices would send ratios towards 1986 levels, including 38 per cent for Mexico and 28 for Venezuela.

Interest rates have climbed 2.5 percentage points.

"Another decline would have a catastrophic effect," said Sarah Cameron, economic advisor on Latin America at Lloyds Bank PLC, who says Venezuela and Ecuador are only now implementing measures to counteract the effects of past oil price declines.

Boon
But Luke said cheap oil would be a boon to importers like Brazil, the biggest Third World debtor, Chile and Argentina, which are also benefiting from higher prices now for some other commodities. Combined, their debt is nearly \$194 billion.

Mexico averted disaster in the 1986 price crash by devaluing its currency by 148 per cent, negotiating a foreign debt package, cutting spending and lowering trade barriers.

BP in £300m move to sell oilfield stake

LONDON, Sept. 24 — BP has put up the "for sale" sign over 20 per cent of its North Sea Magnus oilfield — officially inaugurated by Mrs Thatcher in 1983 — in a move which could raise £300 million, according to a London daily.

Although the sale has attracted the interest of 40 international oil companies, only five or six — possibly including foreign companies — will be allocated stakes.

The sale is regarded as yet another move by BP to take advantage of the North Sea tax regime.

BP will use the proceeds to pay off some of its debt, while the buyers will be able to offset the income from their stake in one of the North Sea's largest producing fields against any spending on exploration they incur on other blocks in the British sector of the North Sea.

Buyers
Among the names suggested as possible buyers last night were Repsol, the Spanish state oil company, and Deminex of West Germany. Another company expected to make a bid so that it can use the tax advantages of having a mature North Sea producing asset could be Aran Energy of Ireland.

The sale, which should be completed, with government approval, by January 3 next year, will also involve bidders — the minimum bid considered will be for 2.5 per cent of the field — taking a share in the associated pipeline and terminal facilities on Shetland.

The sale will also allow BP to

plough more cash into exploration, and bring forward the exploration programme prepared by Britoil, the Glasgow company which BP bought this year.

Hugh Norton, the managing director of BP exploration, said: "The disposal reflects our strategic determination to realise assets which may be worth more to others than they are to BP."

Mark Fletcher, oil analyst at brokers SG Warburg, said: "Once again BP have used the tax system to their advantage."

They can sell off producing assets which are no longer tax-efficient to them to companies looking for a tax shelter, and use the cash raised to explore for more oil. The only loser in this deal is the chancellor.

BP has already disposed of 20 per cent of its Forties field, although the Forties stake was sold in units of 0.25 per cent. Then, the extra administrative work created for the Department of Energy in dealing with the licensing changes involved infuriated the government, and BP is limiting the sale to a likely maximum of six units.

Oil co-operation talks

BAGHDAD, Sept. 24. (OPECNA): Iraqi Oil Minister Issam Abdul Raheem Al Chalabi held talks here on Thursday with Tunisian Minister of Energy and Mining Al Sadeq Rabeh on expanding oil and energy co-operation between the two countries.

World Business Summary

Fed won't make further efforts to tighten credit

WASHINGTON, Sept. 24. (AP): Top policy-makers at the Federal Reserve one week after boosting a key interest rate, decided to make no further efforts to tighten credit in August, according to minutes of the discussions released yesterday. The Federal Reserve serves as the American central bank. The Federal Open Market Committee, which sets monetary policy, voted 10-1 at their Aug 16 meeting to leave credit conditions unchanged for now. The policy-making board met again on Tuesday and many analysts believe that it once again decided to sit back and see whether the tightening moves already undertaken would have the desired effect of dampening demand and cooling off the economy. The Federal Reserve on Aug 9 boosted its discount rate, the interest it charges to make bank loans, to 6.5 per cent. The move had been preceded by a series of less-dramatic tightening efforts beginning in late March as it became concerned that demand was threatening to outstrip the economy's ability to produce goods and services. Since the discount rate increase, the government has reported that unemployment rose slightly to 5.6 per cent and there have been other signs that US economic growth may be slowing slightly. However, economists said they did not believe the slowdown would be enough to ease the Federal Reserve's inflation worries. They said they expected further credit tightening but not until after the Nov 8 presidential election. "I think the economic data will remain reasonably firm and inflation rates will go up," said David Wyes, chief financial economist for Data Resources Inc., of Lexington, Massachusetts. "That means the Fed will be tightening some more after the election." The central bank indicated that it still planned to err on the side of fighting inflationary pressures rather than on the side of boosting economic growth, a position first outlined by Federal Reserve chairman Alan Greenspan in congressional testimony in July. The open market committee is made up of seven members of the Fed board of governors along with five of the 12 presidents of Fed regional banks, who serve on a rotating basis.

Nigerian thermal station in gas pipeline link-up

LAGOS, Sept. 24. (OPECNA): Nigeria's Egbin thermal power station has received its first deliveries of gas from the Escravos-Lagos pipeline, it was announced here. Aret Adams, managing director of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), told newsmen that two million cu. ft. of gas per day was now being utilised by facilities operated by the Nigerian Electric Power Authority (NEPA). The pipeline, which has a capacity of 450 million cu. ft. of gas daily, cost \$220 million to complete. According to Adams, NEPA is only using around 50 million cu. ft. of gas per day on one turbine at the station which is in the process of being commissioned. A second turbine would become operational in about 30 days, he said. Adams disclosed that NNPC had started talks with industries situated near the pipeline with a view to supplying them with gas for their operations. Daniel Nzeke, project leader at the station, said, "I have been provided along the pipeline at Ore, Benin, Ijebu Ode, Shagamu, Ota, Ikorodu as well as Egbin, to enable supplies to local industry and member countries of the Economic Community of Western African States (ECOWAS) to be made." He said the pipeline, which was being supplied by Shell's Obeng plant in Bendul, would carry associated and non-associated gas which would be utilised at the station currently under construction at Warri.

Glaxo pushes profits 12pc ahead to £832m

LONDON, Sept. 24. Glaxo, which over the last few months has moved up to become the world's second largest prescription drugs company, raised profits in the year to June by 12 per cent to £832 million. Chairman Sir Paul Girolami said Glaxo would sooner or later have bigger sales than Merck, the world leader. "It's only a question of time before we overtake them," he said. Although Glaxo is undergoing a period of relatively low growth after the enormous success of its Zantac anti-ulcer treatment, an acceleration is expected as a new range of products hits the market at the beginning of the next decade. Sir Paul said growth would be achieved by concentrating on the central pharmaceutical activities, and acquisitions would play a peripheral part. Glaxo's cash mountain rose during the year by £183 million to £912 million, but the group sees no need to return this to shareholders. It will however be asking for powers at the annual meeting to allow it to buy back shares. The group believes the cash pile is small set against the high risks in the drugs business. The United States market is seen as offering Glaxo the greatest potential, and is already the fastest-growing of the top 10 American drugs companies. But the dollar took some of the shine off the results, with currency changes cutting trading profits by £22 million. A final dividend of 18p raises the total from 19p to 25p. The shares slipped 17p to 986p.

Cereal stocks forecast below safety levels

ROME, Sept. 24. (Reuters): North America's drought is sending world cereal stocks to their lowest in more than a decade and below a minimum needed for food security, the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) said today. Carryover stocks at the end of the 1988-89 crop year would be 16 per cent of anticipated consumption for the next year, it said. The FAO regards 17 to 18 per cent as a minimum. "This would be the first time since the world food crisis of the early 1970s that stocks have declined to such a low level," it said. Its September food outlook report said that stocks "will be at precariously low levels and the cushion for world security provided by the abundant stocks of more recent years will have been eroded." It said the US drought and locusts in Africa would send world cereal output down to 1,726 million tonnes in 1988 — 69 million tonnes below last year's harvest which was itself lower than normal. Carryover stocks would fall by 119 million tonnes to 282 million, the largest drop in a single year on record. World cereal output would need to rise by 13 per cent in 1989 to bring stocks back up to the minimum safety level but this could only be achieved by a return to normal weather. "In this connection the present low level of moisture reserves for winter cereal crop plantings in North America is a cause of some concern," the FAO said. The amount of cereal available for food and will fall below 10 million tonnes for the first time in five years.

American oil prices drop

NEW YORK, Sept. 24. (Reuters): US oil prices lost nearly 50 cents a barrel on Friday on rumours that plans for the upcoming OPEC price-committee meeting were unravelling at the last minute. West Texas Intermediate for delivery in November fell 47 cents to \$14.18 a barrel, wiping out recent gains in US crude prices. North Sea Brent ended at \$13.27 a barrel, down 38 cents. The five-member price committee is expected to meet on Sunday and Monday in Madrid to discuss the continuing overproduction of oil by members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). "The market declined on rumour and innuendo. The first rumour was that Saudi Oil Minister Misham Nazer would not attend (the Madrid meeting); the second was that he was sending a deputy. Then traders thought the price panel meeting might not take place at all," said Andrew Lelov, an analyst with E.D. and F. M. International Futures Inc. The organisation's production, estimated at around 20 million barrels a day in August, exceeds demand for OPEC oil of around 18.5 million barrels daily.



On Wednesday, Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait held a reception at the Kuwait Sheraton to felicitate the appointment of Victor Fu (third from left) as manager of Al Ahli Bank's representative office in Beijing. The occasion was also to introduce Chinese companies operating in Kuwait to the bank's new management.

CURRENCY & BUSINESS

Alshall stock price indices

Shares slide as market euphoria fades

THE Alshall Index for Kuwaiti shareholding companies last Wednesday averaged 42.69 points, an increase of 0.25 points against yesterday. The Alshall Index for Gulf shareholding companies reached 48.69 points, a decrease of 0.04 point against 0.08 for the same period.

The trading volume for Kuwaiti shares reached 25.13 million with a daily average of 5.03 million shares, a decrease of 19.5 per cent from last week's 6.25 million shares.

Gulf traded shares reached 12.22 million with a daily average of 2.44 million shares, 60.5 per cent increase from last week's daily average of 1.52 million shares.

The value of Kuwaiti traded shares was KD 8.400 million at a daily average of KD 1.680 million, a decrease of 23 per cent from last week's daily average of KD 2.192 million.

The value of Gulf traded shares was KD 0.641 million at a daily average of KD 0.134 million, an increase of 23 per cent over last week's daily average of KD 0.109 million.

In spite of several interventions aimed at increasing trading activity, still the market showed weak signs, more so on the Kuwaiti shares. Rumours had spread that the government intends to turn some of its shares portfolio to the private sector.

However, this could not be in the short term, as it contradicts the government's policy which aims at supporting the market at all times.

In the Kuwaiti shares market the banking sector came first at 62 per cent of total trading in which the Commercial Bank had the lead at 24 per cent followed by Burgan Bank at 20 per cent and Kuwait Finance House at 14.5 per cent.

Second came the real estate sector at 15 per cent of total trading, of which Kuwait Projects Company led at 54 per cent followed by Kuwait United Realty at 28.5 per cent and Kuwait Real Estate at 15 per cent.

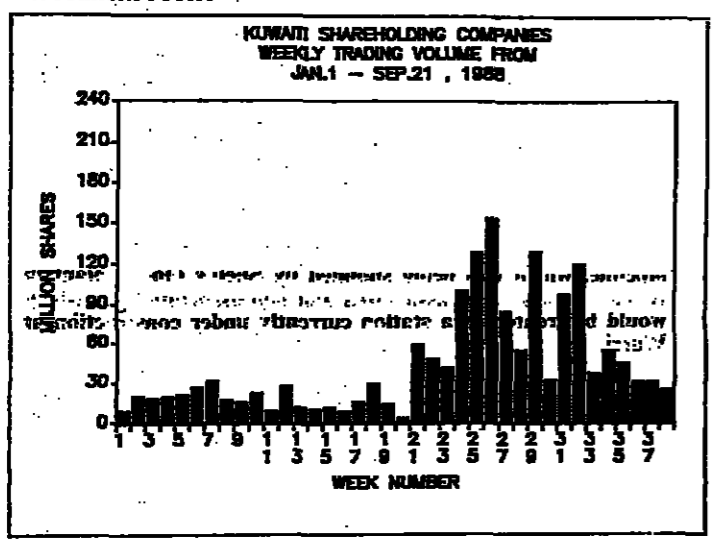
The services sector came third at 13.8 per cent of total trading, followed by Public Warehousing Company at 20.8 per cent and Mobile Telephone Systems at 11.5 per cent. For the Gulf shares market, the financial sector and other companies both had the same percentage of total trading volume at 50 per cent each.

Ras Al-Khaima White Cement led in terms of trading volume at 48 per cent, followed by Coast Investment and Development Company at 35 per cent and Bahrain Middle East Bank at 7 per cent.

Kuwait Investment Co.		29.02	29.02	—
Kuwait Int. Invest. Co.		26.12	26.46	-0.34
Inv. Pearl Kuwait		82.54	84.13	-1.59
IFA		73.53	73.53	—
Commercial Facilities		123.75	122.50	1.25
Sector Index		39.84	39.89	-0.05
Insurance Sector		—	—	—
Kuwait Insurance Co.		39.68	39.68	—
Gulf Insurance Co.		28.46	28.46	—
Al Ahleia Insurance Co.		51.28	51.28	—
Warba Insurance Co.		79.04	79.04	—
Sector Index		40.78	40.78	—
Real Estate Sector		—	—	—
Kuwait Real Estate		30.08	30.08	—
United Realty		11.84	11.84	—
National Real Estate		42.60	43.00	-0.40
Sector Index		21.67	21.73	-0.06
Industrial Sector		—	—	—
Kuwait Cement Co.		17.38	17.38	—
Refrigeration Indust.		92.24	91.14	-1.10
Gulf Cables		112.10	112.10	—
Kuwait Pharmaceutical		90.67	92.44	-1.78
Sector Index		36.24	36.25	-0.01
Services Sector		—	—	—
Kuwait Computer Co.		192.24	192.24	—
Kuwait Cinema Co.		9.04	9.04	—
Public Warehousing Co.		82.83	82.83	—
Kuwait Comm. Markets Co.		36.95	36.95	—
Mobile Telephone Syst.		361.90	366.67	-4.76
Sector Index		66.67	67.06	-0.49
Food Sector		—	—	—
Livestock Trad. & Transp.		47.19	47.19	—
United Fisheries		10.91	10.91	—
Kuwait United Poultry		82.87	82.87	—
Kuwait Food Co.		87.36	87.36	—
Sector Index		45.47	44.68	0.79
Overall Index		42.69	42.44	0.25

Gulf shareholding companies index		14/09/88	07/09/88	points
Financial Companies		—	—	—
First Gulf Bank		163.16	163.16	—
United Gulf Bank		34.48	34.48	—
Bahrain Internat. Bank		93.79	93.79	—
Bahrain M. East Bank		87.32	87.32	—
Gulf Investments Co.		61.03	61.03	—
Coast Inv. & Dev. Co.		99.05	99.05	—
Bahrain Kuwait Inv. Gro.		61.85	61.85	—
Arabian Gen. Inv. (SHUAA)		53.03	53.79	-0.76
Sector Index		64.17	64.24	-0.07
Other Companies		—	—	—
Gulf Cement (fully paid)		13.68	13.68	—
Sharjah Cement		10.50	10.50	—
Fujairah Cement		10.53	10.53	—
Ras Al Khaima W. Cement		25.56	25.56	—
Gulf Medical Projects		29.80	29.80	—
Sector Index		16.24	16.24	—
Overall Index		48.69	48.74	-0.04

Kuwait shareholding companies index		Wednesday 21/09/88	Wednesday 14/09/88	Change
Banking Sector		—	—	—
Kuwait National Bank		106.53	106.53	—
The Gulf Bank		35.63	34.39	1.24
The Commercial Bank		27.87	27.44	0.44
Al Ahli Bank		37.00	36.52	0.48
Bank of Kuwait & M. East		34.20	33.77	0.44
Kuwait R. Estate Bank		32.54	33.33	-0.79
Burgan Bank		31.22	30.72	0.50
Kuwait Finance House		80.12	78.61	1.51
Sector Index		48.69	48.24	0.45
Investment Sector		—	—	—



Kuwait dinar deposit rates firm

KUWAITI dinar deposit rates remained unchanged after jumping on Thursday when a rash of dollar buying tightened liquidity.

Month-end government salary payments were quickly sucked through the system after the Central Bank lowered the value of the dinar against the dollar by half a file, prompting a surge of dollar orders.

The bank exchange rate for the dinar firmed slightly on Saturday to 0.2875/62 to the dollar from 0.2875/67 on Thursday, with commercial banks quoting spot rates of around 0.2875/65.

Overnight funds traded at 10 per cent, the same as on Thursday, while spot-next and tomorrow-next were bid at 10 per cent with only small amounts traded. One-week funds dealt at 8-1/2 per cent.

There was little or no activity in the fixed periods, but they rose up to 3/4 point to 7-1/2, seven per cent for the one-month, 7-1/8, 6-5/8 per cent for the two-month, seven, 6-1/2 per cent for the three-month and 6-7/8, 3/8 per cent for the six-month.

Meanwhile Saudi riyal deposits were little changed in a dull market which saw some activity at the short end as banks covered positions, dealers said.

Announcement of a new issue of 1.5 billion riyals worth of government bonds, due for settlement on Oct 3, had little impact. But fixed period rates showed a slightly wider spread due to a 1/16 point decline on the bid side.

Trade is normally thin during the European weekend, when many major offshore players are absent. Gulf banks are shut on Friday, the Muslim weekend.

Dealers reported business only in tomorrow-next funds, which dealt at nine per cent. Spot-next and one-week were both relatively steady at levels of 8-1/2, eight per cent.

One and three-month funds were indicated little changed from Thursday's closing levels at 8-3/8, 3/16 per cent for the one and 8-9/16, 3/8 for the three-month.

Nazer leaves for OPEC meeting

RIYADH, Sept. 24. (Reuters) Saudi Oil Minister Hisham Nazer left for Madrid today to attend a meeting of OPEC's price committee, the official Saudi Press Agency (SPA) said.

US crude oil futures for November fell almost 50 cents a barrel on Friday on rumours that Nazer would not attend the meeting but would send a lower-ranking official in his place.

The committee, comprising the ministers of Algeria, Indonesia, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela, can call for an emergency ministerial meeting of OPEC (the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries) if prices are deemed too low.

But industry analysts said they believed the meeting, expected to start on Sunday, would decide instead to issue a communique urging world oil producers to curb excess output.

AMF lends Egypt, N. Yemen \$34m

ABU DHABI, Sept. 24. (Reuters) The Arab Monetary Fund (AMF) said it agreed today to lend Egypt 4.6 million Arab Accounting Dinars (ADU), equivalent to \$18.3 million, and North Yemen 3.9 million ADU (\$15.5 million).

AMF officials said the three-year loans at interest of between 3.75 per cent and 4.75 per cent a year would help finance balance of payments deficits in both countries.

Stocks resist decline

KARACHI, Sept. 24. Stocks turned in an improved performance yesterday as amid slow trading, blue chips generally finished higher following stray short-covering originating mainly from jobbers, reports a Karachi daily.

The Karachi Stock Exchange index of sharp prices, however, remained under pressure as some of the leading base shares suffered pruning because of week-end consideration.

It was quoted lower by 10 points at 1,507 as compared to 1,517 a day earlier.

Investors

Trading resumed on a cautious note as most of the leading operators were still studying the amendments in the new tax law.

They were, therefore, conspicuous by their absence leaving the market at the mercy of jobbers and day traders who played on both sides of the fence amid alternate bouts of buying and selling.

Analysts said although most of the decision of the Cabinet go

KUWAIT

BANK SECTOR	P.CLS	LT	HIGH	LOW	VOL	TRADE
NATIONAL BANK	1.050	1.060	1.060	1.060	30000	2
GULF BANK	0.430	0.430	0.430	0.430	200000	13
COMMERCIAL BK	0.320	0.320	0.320	0.320	170000	10
AHLI BANK	0.385	—	—	—	—	—
B.K.M.E	0.390	—	—	—	—	—
K.R.E.B.	0.410	—	—	—	—	—
BURGAN BANK	0.315	0.320	0.320	0.320	100000	3
K.F. HOUSE	0.530	0.530	0.540	0.530	165000	11
INVESTMENT SECTOR						
KUT INV. CO.	0.158	—	—	—	60000	2
K.F.T.C.I.C.	0.210	—	—	—	—	—
K.I.T.C.	0.152	—	—	—	—	—
COM.FACILITIES	0.495	—	—	—	—	—
AHLIA INV.	0.000	—	—	—	—	—
I.F.A.	0.100	—	—	—	—	—
INV. PEARL KUT	0.104	—	—	—	—	—
INSURANCE SECTOR						
KUT INSURANCE	0.730	—	—	—	—	—
GULF INSURANCE	0.370	—	—	—	—	—
AHLIA INS. CO.	0.580	—	—	—	—	—
ABRA INS. CO.	0.460	—	—	—	—	—
REAL ESTATE SECTOR						
KUT E.S.T. CO.	0.236	0.236	0.236	0.236	100000	1
UNI E.S.T. CO.	0.106	0.106	0.106	0.106	120000	2
WAT E.S.T. CO.	0.214	—	—	—	—	—
SALAHIA R.E.	0.080	—	—	—	—	—
KUT PROJECTS	0.091	—	—	—	—	—
KUT R.E.T. CON	0.000	—	—	—	—	—
INDUSTRY SECTOR						
NAT IND. CO.	0.520	—	—	—	—	—
KUT M.P. IND.	0.300	—	—	—	—	—
KUT CEMENT CO.	0.255	—	—	—	—	—
REF. IND. CO.	0.420	—	—	—	—	—
N.A.M.T. CO.	0.000	—	—	—	—	—
GULF CABLE	1.090	1.080	1.090	1.080	60000	2
K.P.H. IND. CO.	0.204	—	—	—	—	—
COM.MARINE	0.350	—	—	—	—	—
K.S.H.REP.CO.	0.046	—	—	—	—	—
SERVICES SECTOR						
OVERLAND TRANS	0.082	—	—	—	—	—
K.N.C. CO.	0.190	—	—	—	—	—
KUT HOTELS CO.	0.170	—	—	—	—	—
P.WAREHOUSING	0.164	—	—	—	—	—
COM.MKT. CMPC.	0.018	0.018	0.018	0.018	240000	1
MOBILE TELE.	0.380	0.380	0.380	0.380	10000	1
KUT COMPUTER	0.178	—	—	—	—	—
FOOD SECTOR						
LIVESTOCK T.T.	0.252	0.230	0.230	0.230	60000	1
UNITD FISHERIES	0.154	—	—	—	—	—
UNITD POLTRY	0.226	0.226	0.226	0.226	60000	1
KUT FOODS	0.380	—	—	—	—	—
AGRI. FOOD PRO.	0.150	—	—	—	—	—
NON-KUT SECTOR						
B.W. INTER. BK	0.068	—	—	—	—	—
B.W.M.EAST.BK	0.046	0.047	0.047	0.047	80000	1
UNITD. GULF BK	0.000	—	—	—	—	—
COAST INVEST.	0.104	—	—	—	—	—
A.G. INV. CORP	0.035	—	—	—	—	—
FIRST GULF BK	0.620	—	—	—	—	—
B.K.I.G.	0.080	—	—	—	—	—

SHIPPING MOVEMENTS

SHIPS DISCHARGING AT SHUWAIKH PORT ON SEPT. 24			
B.No.	Ships Name	Agent	Tel.
3	Shireen	UASC	4843150
5	Croesus	Gh&Q	4747815
6	Rybinsk	Al Rashed	2422026
8	Tug Abu Samir	G. Star	4845501
9	Barge Jubail	G. Star	4845501
12	Great Liberty	ISA	2441860
14	Buzet	M.A. Bahar	2433881
FD	Dimitros	KMMC	2419814
SHIPS EXPECTED AT SHUWAIKH PORT			
ETA	Ships Name	Agent	Tel.
24/9	Corriedale Express	Gh. & Q	4747815
24/9	Maersk Astro	Behbehani	2412085
24/9	Mikhail Stenko	Al Rashed	2422026
25/9	Rich Victoria	United	2457958
SHIPS DISCHARGING AT SHUAIBA PORT			
B No	Ships Name	Agent	Tel.
11	Kyrenia	Barwil	4842988
SHIPS EXPECTED AT SHUAIBA PORT			
ETA	Ships Name	Agent	Tel.
22/9	Al Noor	M.A. Bahar	2433881
22/9	Great Liberty	Al Kamal	2423437
22/9	Uco XVII	Sager	2423692
23/9	Torbay	KMMC	2419814
24/9	New Oasis	A.S. Marafic	4846665
26/9	Noblesse	Barwil	4842988
29/9	Argo Trader	Gh & Q	4747815
30/9	Willine Orient	Barwil	4842988
1/10	Dimitros	RSMS	2423642
COMPILED BY:			
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Alghanim Industries Building-Shuwaikh-Airport Road, Tel.			
4842988, 4843988, ext. 3514, 3623			

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Mood of caution and apathy deepens

Big obstacles remain in market's path

NEW YORK, Sept. 24. (AP) Hopes have faded lately on Wall Street for any development soon to restart the stalled stock market.

The end of summer and its traditional torpor haven't done it. And analysts say the next several weeks hold some serious obstacles to any revival of enthusiasm for stocks.

First of all, there is the impending first anniversary of Black Monday on Oct. 19, a milestone unlikely to whet investors' appetites for taking new risks in the stock market.

"We're going to be bombarded from all sides with rehabilitating, recapitulating and backward-looking forecasts," said Justin Marnis, an analyst at Cowen and Co.

Secondly, there is the Nov 8 presidential election, the outcome of which is hard to predict or anticipate.

Investors

No matter whom the voters choose, brokers note, investors will be contemplating the first change of presidents since 1980, with all the questions about future economic policies.

Of course, as the mood of caution and apathy deepens, analysts say there is always a chance that the market will pull off a surprise.

The stock market is notorious for its ability to catch the majority off guard, especially when there is widespread agreement that a trend is firmly

established—in the present case, a neutral "trading range" trend.

But if some sudden surge of energy is going to hit the market, many analysts say, it's hard to see where it's going to come from.

As Edward Nicolski at Piper, Jaffray and Hopwood Inc. put it in a recent commentary "we'd like to be able to say that the end to this 'random rallies and reactions' bit is just around the corner, but neither the conviction nor the technical evidence is at hand... yet."

Players

"As it gyrates in its wide trading range and ends up going nowhere, more and more players are becoming convinced that this is the way it will be for months or even years to come."

Weinstein calls this thinking a "trap." While he's not predicting any immediate selloff, he argues that "there are still plenty of problems" in the market outlook.

As investors await the elections, James Stack, editor of the Investech market analyst advisory letter, offers these "fun facts to know and tell."

Barclays scheme to offer cover

LONDON, Sept. 24. (Reuters) Barclaycard is set to introduce a new, no-cost scheme next year to convince consumers to use its brand of plastic credit—and not those of its rivals.

If final test marketing is positive, it will offer its 9 million cardholders Barclaycard Buyers Protection. This is a free additional warranty which extends a supplier's or maker's guarantee by one year on a range of consumer goods costing more than £50.

The only exclusions are motorised vehicles, including motorcycles and motor boats. Barclaycard says aeroplanes are also out—although it admits no one has so far bought one with its card. But everything else which has a guarantee against anything going wrong is covered.

Competition

The main use is likely to be in buying video recorders, television sets, washing machines and other domestic electrical equipment but bicycles and garden machinery, for instance, will also be covered.

As competition intensifies, with some banks offering a choice of credit cards and the Monopolies Commission report on plastic cards in the pipeline, Barclaycard is testing 250,000 of

its cardholders chosen at random for their reactions between now and the end of the year. Early signs are good, with cardholders apparently liking something that is genuinely cost-free, so the protection plan could well take off.

ARAB TIMES Classifieds

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KUWAIT City, Fahd Al Salem Street, opp Gulf Air and Air India, near Al Muthanna Complex. Accommodation suitable for working ladies. Tel. 2448643, 8.30 am - 12.30 pm, 4 - 9.30 pm. (AT2-44041-3)

KUWAIT City, behind Sharq fire station. Single room for one or two Indian bachelors. Tel. Mr. John, 2419327, after 6 pm. (AT2-44077-3)

KUWAIT City, Fahd Al Salem Street, near GPO. Accommodation with kitchen facilities for a couple or bachelors to share with an Indian family. Tel. 3720324. (AT2-KPC-TM-2)

RIGGAE, one semi-furnished room in a CAC 2 bedroom flat for 1 bachelor or 2 working ladies to share with an Indian family. Rent KD 60. Tel. Mr. Joseph, 4813047, 8 am - 5 pm. (AT6-44018-3)

OLD Kheitan, near the Co-operative Society. Accommodation in a flat, 4 room, double bathroom with tele. facilities for a Keralite couple to share with a Keralite family. Tel. 4744313. (AT6-44037-3)

FARWANIYA, behind the Holiday Inn, sharing accommodation in an apartment, preferably for a small Mangalorean family, (husband and wife). All facilities available. Tel. 2449400 ext. 355, 7 am - 3 pm. (AT2-44062-2)

NUGRA, Khalid Street. One independent room furnished with water and electricity and tele. facilities for 1 or two bachelors from 1st October. Rent KD 80. Tel. Mr. Oberoi, 4740801, off. 2644645, res. (AT2-44055-3)

KUWAIT City, Fahd Al Salem Street. One room with water, electricity and kitchen facilities for one or two working ladies to share with a family. Tel. 2412923, 9 am - 12 pm. (AT2-44085-2)

KUWAIT City, near GPO, Anwar Al Sabah building, Flat No. 144 Block 13. One room for 2 Indian Christian bachelors or working ladies to share with a family. Rent KD 90. Tel. 2413694, 6 - 9 pm. (AT2-44087-3)

HASSAWI, near the petrol station. One room for a family. Bus route 21, 22, 28. Rent KD 35. Tel. Mr. Elias, 4344285 or contact "Golden Store" Abbasiya. (AT2-44086-2)

KUWAIT City, near the Sheraton Hotel. Western oriented person wanted for independent furnished accommodation with sea view in traditional villa. All facilities available. Rent KD 120 all inclusive. Tel. 2418017, 1 - 3 pm or after 8 pm. (AT2-44070-3)

For Rent

SALWA, new building, ground floor, 3 large bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, large kitchen, large lounge, private garage, CAC and heating. Including water and electricity. Tel. 5644575 after 1.30 pm. (AT2-KR-TM-3)

BAYAN, deluxe half villa, CAC, consisting of 2 bedrooms, living and dining area, 2 bathrooms, and kitchen, fully carpeted with curtain and private entrance. Rent KD 250. Tel. 5380004. (AT2-44098-3)

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NISSAN Stanza '84, 50,000 kms, one owner, with AC in very good condition. KD 1,000 or KD 30 by monthly instalments. Tel. 5385094. (AT6-44051-3)

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Miscellaneous

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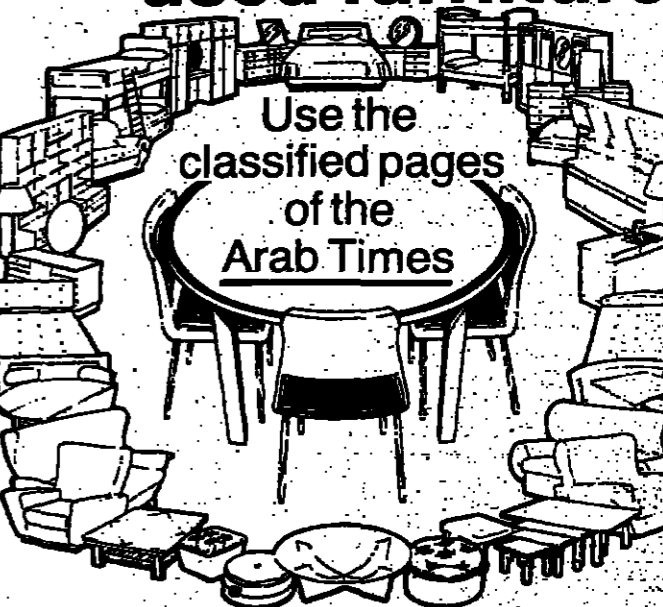
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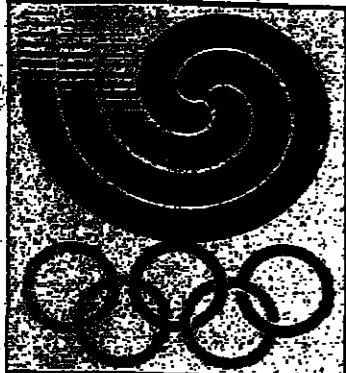
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Advertisements should be submitted with the files, artwork or brochures complete and ready for printing. Always confirm with the Arab Times Advertising Department on rates, well before placing your advertisement.

EDITING
All advertisements are subject to editing. Therefore, it would be advisable to submit the advertisement at least two days before, if one should wish to have an edited copy before being printed.

DEADLINES
All advertisements should be submitted no later than 5 pm. If you have any inquiries, please write to: Arab Times Advertising Dept. P.O. Box 2570, 13023, SAFAT, Kuwait. Tel. 4816367.



Australia brush aside Pakistan

SEOUL, Sept. 24, (Reuters): Pakistan, the defending champions, suffered their heaviest Olympic defeat when they were beaten 4-0 by World Cup holders Australia in the Seoul Games men's hockey tournament today.

It was the first time Pakistan had conceded four goals in an Olympic match since their first appearance in the Games in 1948.

Australia's win in their fourth Group A match ensured them a place in the semifinals.

In other Group A matches the Netherlands beat Kenya 2-1 to move within a point of second-placed Pakistan and Argentina beat Spain 1-0.

Opened
All the Australian goals came between the eighth and 31st minutes. Centre-forward Mark Hager opened the scoring with his seventh goal of the tournament. John Bestall converted a penalty corner and left winger Neil Hawgood completed the rout with two goals in a minute.

Richard Aggiss, the Australian coach, said: "We threw the ball around and made tremendous gaps in their defence. For 15 minutes we were unstoppable."

The Australians, who lost to Pakistan in the semifinals of the 1984 tournament, boast a 100 per cent record. Pakistan trail them by two points.

Early
The Dutch, seeded fourth, kept in the hunt for a place in the last four, with goals by Floris Bovelander and Taco van den Honert.

Group B is much tighter with four teams, West Germany, India, Britain, who all won today, and the Soviet Union still in contention.

Sean Kerly scored twice within two minutes early in the second half to help Britain to a 3-1 victory over the Soviet Union.

Carsten Fischer, who played a key role in the West Germans' win over the British on Thursday, scored the only goal in the triumph over South Korea.

The Los Angeles silver medalists, who have dropped only one point in their four matches, are now certain to qualify for the semifinals if they draw their final group game against the Soviet Union.

India, who play Britain in their final match, moved up to second place in Group B with a 5-1 win over Canada. Mohinderpal Singh scored twice.

Standings
(Tableau under played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, against, points)

Group A	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Australia	4	0	0	18	3	8
Pakistan	4	0	0	15	6	8
Netherlands	4	2	1	10	6	5
Spain	4	1	2	6	9	3
Argentina	4	1	0	3	3	2
Kenya	4	0	0	4	2	1

Group B	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
W. Germany	4	3	1	0	7	3
India	4	2	1	1	9	5
Britain	4	2	1	1	5	5
Soviet Union	4	2	1	1	5	5
South Korea	4	0	1	3	4	1
Canada	4	0	1	3	2	1

Edberg outlasts Hlasek for quarterfinals

SEOUL, Sept. 24, (Reuters): Olympic tennis gold medal favourite Stefan Edberg recovered from a concentration lapse to reach the quarterfinals today but women's fifth-seed Helena Sukova was knocked out by a little-known local player.

Edberg looked to have his third round match against Swiss 10th seed Jakob Hlasek sewn up at two sets up and 5-2 in the third.

But he allowed Hlasek to pull back to 6-6 and the set went to a tiebreaker which the Swede won with ease, 7-3, for a 6-2 4-6 7-6 victory.

"It was the same thing in Cincinnati against Mats Wilander," said Edberg who lost that match to his compatriot. "And I had Aaron Krickstein in the US Open and just let it slip away."

"I lose my concentration. When I get into this situation I remember what happened last time and get a bit tense."

There were no concentration problems for second seed Tim Mayotte of the United States who produced a solid serve-and-volley game to beat Israeli Amos Mansdorf 6-4 6-2 6-4.

In the quarterfinals he will meet West German Carl-Uwe Steeb who put out Sweden's Ander Jarryd, the seventh seed, 2-6 7-5 6-3 7-5.

Czechoslovak Miloslav

OTTO WINS FIFTH GAMES GOLD

Johnson rockets to gold and world record

SEOUL, South Korea, Sept. 24, (AP): Canada's Ben Johnson raised his right arm in a victory salute to signal "I am the world's fastest" today as he dashed Carl Lewis' hopes of another four gold medal sweep of the Olympics.

Bulgaria's weightlifting team withdrew from competition after a second doping scandal, and the chief organizer of the giant Seoul Games resigned to atone for the black eye a boxing brawl gave to host South Korea.

Johnson rocketed from the starting blocks to break his own world record in the 100-metre dash and finish a giant step ahead of the American defending champion in the Olympic final. Johnson's time of 9.79 seconds bettered the 9.83 world mark he set in defeating Lewis at the world championships in Rome last year.

Timed
For the first time in history, four competitors finished under 10 seconds. Lewis was timed in 9.92 to win silver, while Linford Christie of Britain took bronze in 9.97 and American Calvin Smith was fourth in 9.99.

"In the first 30 metres I knew I had the race," Johnson said after taking a couple of laps around the track with the Canadian flag in hand. "I sailed through. This gold was for my mother, for everybody, for Canada."

Lewis, who had boasted before the Games that he would never again lose to Johnson, was first to shake the hand of his arch rival and walked away looking puzzled over the outcome of the highly publicised race.

"I gave it my best shot," said



Blondi screams in joy after winning his fourth gold medal. (Reuters wirephoto)

Lewis, who had won golds in the 100, 200, long jump and 400 relay at Los Angeles. "I think I could have run better."

Jackie Joyner-Kersey lifted American spirits by breaking her own world record and winning gold in the heptathlon—a grueling seven-event contest. Her total of 7,291 points bettered her old mark of 7,215 set at the US Olympic trials earlier this year.

Soviet acrobats reasserted their dominance of Olympic gymnastics, winning six gold in apparatus events in men's competition.

Vladimir Artemov, winner of the Olympic all-around gymnastic title, and American swimming ace Matt Biondi became quadruple gold medal winners on the eighth day of the Games.

But East German mermaid Katrin Otto went one better, winning her fifth gold medal of the Games as the lead off swimmer in her team's 400-metre

relay victory last night.

Biondi moved to within one medal of his goal of seven by winning the men's 50-metre freestyle in the world record time of 22.14 seconds. His teammate, Tom Jaeger, who set the previous mark of 22.23 earlier this year won silver in 22.36.

Soviet cyclists picked up two golds and a silver, winning the first-ever women's Olympic match sprint and the 4,000-metre team pursuit and picking up silver behind an East German biker in the men's match sprint.

East German Oarsmen captured four of seven rowing finals on the Han River regatta course today—the most hectic day yet of the Seoul Games with 30 golds awarded in eight sports.

With the Bulgarians out of the weightlifting competition, the Soviet Union's Israil Arsamakov won gold in the 62.5-kilo division. The outcome might have been different if the Bulgarian



Griffith-Joyner on her way to the Olympic record during heats. (Reuters wirephoto)

world record holder, Asen Zlatev, had been allowed to compete.

Joyner-Kersey's sister-in-law, Florence Griffith-Joyner, gave a hint of things to come with two blazing sprint performances, breaking the Olympic 100 metres record twice in successive races.

She looked a class above any of her opponents, including defending champion Evelyn Ashford and East Germany's world champion Silke Moeller. The women's final will be decided tomorrow.

Inevitably there were casualties as well as triumphs. Britain's track team suffered a

blow when Steve Cram, its star middle-distance runner, was eliminated from the Olympic 800-metre race as he finished sixth in his second-round heat today. The 1983 world champion had been nursing a half injury.

The heat was won by Said Aouita of Morocco, a favourite to win gold. But the Moroccan left the track after the heat, limping and in obvious pain from a strained muscle.

The only Westerner to win a cycling final today was Dan Frost, who gave Denmark its first gold medal of the Games. He took the men's 50-kilometre points race.

Lange begins new single sculls era

SEOUL, Sept. 24, (Reuters): East Germany's Thomas Lange launched a new era in rowing's most prestigious event today when he struck gold in the Olympic single sculls final.

The 24-year-old world champion confirmed emphatically his place as the top singles sculler after the 12-year domination of triple Olympic champion Pertti Karppinen of Finland and four times world champion West German Peter-Michael Kolbe.

Powered
Karppinen, 35, crashed out of the competition in the semifinals. The East German powered past Kolbe, 35, in the last 500 metres of the final to collect his first Olympic title.

Lange's victory over Karppinen and Kolbe at last year's world championship in Copenhagen came as a surprise and the two veterans, experts at lifting themselves for Olympic events, were still regarded as strong contenders in Seoul.

Kolbe, watching the East German warily, started confidently and led for 1,000 metres.

But Lange began his spurt for home with 700 metres to go and won by more than a boat's length as the West German tired, waving his arms in delight as he crossed the finish line. New Zealand's Eric Verdonk won the bronze.

Britain's Steve Redgrave and Andy Holmes won the men's coxless pairs to stay on course for double gold.

The British world champions led for most of the race but fought off a stiff challenge from Romania's Dragos Neagu and Danut Dobre over the last 50 metres to finish in 6 minutes 36.84 seconds, just over a second clear.

Recover
Bojan Preseren and Sadik Mujic of Yugoslavia took the bronze.

The two Britons have little time to recover before they challenge Italy's world champions Carmine and Giuseppe Abbagnale in tomorrow's coxed pairs final.

Dutchmen Ronald Florijn and Nicolaas Rienks pulled off a major shock when they won a

tight men's double sculls final in 6:31.13.

The unfancied Dutch pair edged out Switzerland's Beat Schwermann and Ueli Bodenmann in the last 500 metres with touted Alexander Martchenko and Vassily Iakoucha of the Soviet Union settling for the bronze.

"We cried at the halfway mark," Rienks said afterwards. "After 1,000 metres we could feel the gold medal," teammate Florijn added.

World champions East Germany powered home to win the men's coxed fours final by more than a boat's length. Second-placed Romania held off a late run from bronze medalists New Zealand.

Zambian beats Yereshchenko to spoil Soviets' record

SEOUL, Sept. 24, (Reuters): The Soviet Union suffered their first defeat and two Americans reached the third round as the marathon Olympic boxing tournament reached its half-way point today.

A classic black eye put paid to the hopes of welterweight (67 kg) Vladimir Yereshchenko and shattered the Soviet Union's 100 per cent record.

Closed
The stylish Russian was caught by a vicious combination from Zambia's Dimus Chisala in the first round and his eye was virtually closed by the third when the referee felt obliged to halt the fight.

The Soviet Union, so far the

most successful of the boxing powers on show in Seoul, now have 11 boxers in the third round. Two of the heavier men qualified automatically.

After an embarrassing start, the United States appear to have moved up a gear and their two wins took their third round tally of boxers to 10, including three who have still to fight.

Light-middleweight Roy Jones stunned Malawi's Mtenere Makalamba with his first punch and knocked him out less than two minutes later for what must have been one of the easiest fights of his amateur career.

"His boxing skills were not what we expected at the Olympics," said Jones, who barely broke sweat.

Spain edge into quarterfinals

SEOUL, Sept. 24, (Reuters): Spain overcame a 55-point effort by Oscar Schmidt to beat Brazil 118-110 today in what could prove to be a pivotal game in Olympic basketball.

Spain shot magnificently and controlled the boards to claim their win and position themselves for a strong shot at a medal.

The win raised Spain's record to 4-1 for second place in Group B behind the United States.

Brazil, who fell to 3-2 for third place, will play European champions the Soviet Union in the quarterfinals, where the winners are assured of playing for a medal.

The game was close until Spain scored nine straight for a 95-82 lead in the middle of the second half when Brazil's shooters went cold. Brazil never got closer than eight.

Spain controlled the rebounds and used a smart selection of shots to sink a torrid 68 per cent. Centre Andres Jimenez hit 10 of 12 and scored 27 points. Guard Jose Marie Margal had 17, including 5-7 on three-pointers.

Finished
Schmidt and Marcel Souza, who scored 28, accounted for all but 27 of Brazil's points.

The United States finished the preliminaries unbeaten by trouncing Egypt 102-35 despite injuries that kept four players on the bench. Guard Hersey Hawkins, with a strained right knee, is expected to miss the rest of the tournament.

Canada clinched a berth in the quarterfinals against group A number one Yugoslavia when guard Eli Pasquale sank a three-pointer with six seconds left to

beat China 99-96.

Australia clinched third place in Group B and a quarterfinal date with Spain, beating South Korea 95-75.

The win raised Australia's record to 3-2, while South Korea finished 0-5.

The Americans, who face Puerto Rico in their quarterfinal, slowed the pace in the second half to work on their half-court offence after taking a 62-21 lead against Egypt at the half.

Gone, too, was the full-court defence the US team like to use as coach Thompson, who usually demands all-out effort for the full 40 minutes, made a concession to discretion.

"We wanted to work on our half-court offence and defence and tried to run our set plays," he said. "I was also afraid of somebody else getting hurt at this point."

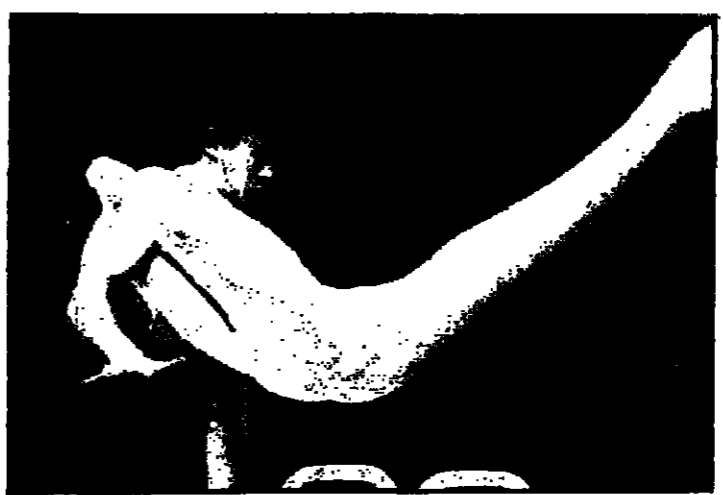
Doubles match makes history

SEOUL, Sept. 24, (Reuters): It took a bone-wearying near-record 63 games over more than four hours to play the three sets of a women's doubles tennis match at the Olympics today.

The marathon, which pitted Canadians Carling Bassett-Seguso and Jill Hetherington against Argentina's Gabriela Sabatini and Mercedes Paz, had the second-highest number of games in modern tournament history for a women's doubles.

Reached
The last set needed 38 games. The Canadian pair finally reached the second round 7-6 5-7 20-18 after four hours and 13 minutes on the centre court at the Olympic Park.

Women's International Tennis Association (WITA) records say only one tournament match has ever taken more games.



Bilozherchev goes through his gold medal performance on the pommel horse. (Reuters wirephoto)

Soviet gymnasts clinch six more gold medals

SEOUL, Sept. 24, (Reuters): The Soviet Union collected another six gymnastics Olympic gold medals, but they did not have it all their own way in the men's apparatus finals.

Three joint winners in the pommel horse event meant that three national anthems were heard at a medal ceremony for the first time in Olympic history.

Struck
Vladimir Artemov took his personal haul to four golds, adding two more—and a silver—to the all-round title he won two days ago and the team medal earlier in the week. Dmitry Bilozherchev also struck gold twice.

But four of the six disciplines produced shared first places and Bilozherchev was involved in a three-way tie for the gold on the pommel horse.

Lou Yun of China retained the vault title he won in Los Angeles four years ago to become the only non-Soviet male gymnast to win a title outright.

Three East Europeans will also go home with gold medals. Hungary's Zsolt Borkai and Bulgaria's Lubomir Geraskov joined Bilozherchev as joint winners of the pommel horse. Bilozherchev also had to share his other title, the rings, with Holger Behrendt of East Germany.

While two-way ties are commonplace in gymnastics, the only other time an Olympic title was

shared by three competitors was at the 1948 Games in London when three Finns tied for the gold, also on the pommel horse.

Sergei Kharkov of the Soviet Union took the day's first gold, his accomplished floor routine leaving Artemov with the silver and Lou and Japan's Yukio Ikegami with joint bronze medals. Artemov later made up for any disappointment by winning the parallel bars from compatriot Valery Lushin and then sharing with Lushin the horizontal bar title.

Meanwhile, at the vault the Soviet Union failed for the first and only time not just to win the gold but also to get a medal of any sort.

The two Soviet competitors, Kharkov and Vladimir Gogoladze, both fell trying difficult landings on the first of their two attempts.

Cheer
Lou produced two efficient vaults to secure his second successive Olympic vault title while Sylvio Kroll of East Germany took the silver.

Park Jong-Hoon won South Korea's first gymnastics medal and the biggest cheer of the day when he scored a perfect 10 for his second vault to help him take the bronze.

The gymnastics competition ends tomorrow with the final four medal events, the women's apparatus finals.

OLYMPIC NOTEBOOK

Butch Reynolds

WORLD record holder Butch Reynolds did the barest minimum to safeguard his passage through the opening heats of the men's 400 metres at the Olympics yesterday. With only the first three certain to qualify for the second round, the American coasted for 300 metres and needed to change gear off the last bend to ensure third place.

Bulgarian team

BULGARIAN officials withdrew their entire weightlifting team from the Olympics yesterday after a second gold medalist was stripped of his title for taking dope. The Bulgarian Olympic delegation ordered an investigation and disciplinary measures against the team's lifters, trainers and doctor after Angel Guenchev was disqualified for taking a weight-reducing diuretic.

Winning formula

HAVE a baby and win gold—that was Bulgarian swimmer Tania Dangalakova's message after her Olympic triumph. "This is a first in international swimming," the ebullient Bulgarian said on Friday night after winning the 100 metres breaststroke just 15 months after she had a baby daughter, Anna.

Ben Johnson

BEN JOHNSON may be the fastest man in the world over 100 metres but the time it took him to provide a urine sample wouldn't win him a marathon medal. Johnson's world record run of 9.79 seconds earned him the gold medal at the Olympics yesterday but afterwards he needed nearly 2-1/2 hours to provide a sample for a doping test.

US swimmers

TWO US swimmers celebrating gold medals were arrested by police early yesterday morning for stealing a bust from a Seoul night club, South Korean police said. They said Troy Dalbey and Doug Gjertsen, members of the team that set a world record in the 4x200 metres freestyle relay on Wednesday, were freed a few hours later pending an investigation.

Soccer crowds

OLYMPIC soccer crowds fell just short of the half million mark for the first 24 matches, making the sport the best-attended so far of the Games. The group games in Seoul and four provincial cities pulled in 483,000 fans.

Olympic fever

A FAMILIAR announcement echoes round the Pusan Olympic yachting centre: "and in last place... Korea." Apart from a few stifled groans of disappointment, the result is met with utter indifference. There is something missing in the port 480 km south-east of the South Korean capital Seoul. There is no Olympic fever.

Matt Biondi

QUADRUPLE gold medalist Matt Biondi filmed a commercial for Disney world at the Olympic swimming stadium but rapidly shelved it after an IOC warning. Dick Pound, an International Olympic Committee (IOC) vice-president, warned Biondi when the giant American swimmer filmed the advertisement for the Florida Amusement Complex after his 100 metres freestyle win on Thursday.

\$1 million price

TURKEY paid Bulgaria \$1 million to let world champion weightlifter Naim Suleymanoglu take part in the Seoul Olympic Games. Prime Minister Turgut Ozal said on Friday. "After a lot of bargaining, the Bulgarians asked for \$1 million in return for all the expenses they made for Naim." Ozal said in a televised political broadcast.

Boxing row

SOUTH KOREA'S National Olympic chief resigned yesterday as the row over a boxing ring brawl which brought shame on the 1988 host nation rumbled on with little sign of respite. In a surprise move Korean Olympic Committee (KOC) president Kim Chong-Ha accepted formal responsibility for Thursday's ring battle and said he hoped his departure would help bury the controversy and ensure the success of the Games.

Drinks spiked

ALEX WATSON, expelled from the Olympic games for drug-taking, said yesterday that his drinks were spiked during the modern pentathlon. His allegations were supported by Willy Grut, the Swedish honorary secretary-general of the sport's governing body, the UIPMB, and a former Olympic gold medalist.

Chinese divers

CHINA'S diving wonders Gao Min and Li Qing led a field of 12 qualifiers into tomorrow's springboard finals. Gao, 18, the only woman to score more than 600 points in a springboard event, had 539.67 points and the 15-year-old Li 501.39 in today's preliminaries.

SPORTS

PAKISTAN ALL OUT FOR 316

Two late blows jolt Australians

FAISALABAD, Pakistan, Sept 24, (Reuters): Australia were jolted by two late blows that ended a fightback by third-wicket pair Geoff Marsh and Graeme Wood in the second cricket Test against Pakistan today.

Opener Marsh (51) and Wood (32) had lifted Australia to 122 for two in reply to Pakistan's first innings of 316, their last five wickets having fallen for 72 earlier in the day.

Addition
Pakistan struck back by despatching Marsh and Wood with-out addition to the total and Australia were 128 for four at the close of the second day, their innings in the balance and much depending on captain Allan Border.

Border had survived 19 nervous minutes at the crease without scoring and nightwatchman Tony Dodemaide was on five, with Steve Waugh the only specialist batsman to come.

Australia, 65 for two at one stage, were battling to a solid position until their progress was checked by left-arm fast bowler Saleem Jaffer. He struck Wood's pad with a swinging full toss and umpire Mahboob Shah had no hesitation in giving him out lbw.

Off-spinner Tauseef Ahmed



Marsh: scored 51

dealt the second blow with a sharply turning delivery, putting Australia in difficulties again following their defeat by one

innings and 188 runs in the

acrimonious first Test in Karachi.

Australia had suffered an early setback when opener David Boon tried to square cut a

delivery from medium-pace Mudassar Nazar well outside the off-stump but succeeded only in deflecting on to his stumps. Boon made 13.

Dean Jones added 41 with Marsh before leg-spinner Abdul Qadir claimed his first scalp of the match, trapping him lbw for 16 with a flipper.

When Pakistan resumed at 244 for five they lost their century-making hero of the opening day, Ejaz Ahmed, without addition to his 122. He was bowled off his pads by left-arm fast bowler Bruce Reid.

Wicketkeeper Salim Yousuf added 10 to his overnight 52 before Boon snapped up a bat-pad catch at forward short-leg off paceman Dodemaide, while Reid uprooted Qadir's off stump when the slow bowler had scored six.

But spinners Tauseef and Iqbal Qasim, profiting from poor fielding, defied Australia with a 49-run ninth-wicket stand. Three catches went down in the slips off Reid, leaving the gangling bowler pounding the turf in frustration.

Leg-spinner Peter Sleep eventually removed Qasim with an athletic return catch for 16 and trapped Jaffer lbw for nought to

wrap up the Pakistani innings. Dodemaide ended with four for 87 and Reid took three for 92.

Scoreboard

PAKISTAN 1st innings:
Mudassar Nazar c Marsh b Reid ... 9
Rameez Raja lbw Dodemaide ... 0
Sheesh Mohammad b Dodemaide ... 11
Javed Miandad c Boon b May ... 43
Salim Malik b Dodemaide ... 3
Ejaz Ahmed b Reid ... 122
Saleem Yousaf c Boon b Dodemaide ... 62
Abdul Qadir b Reid ... 16
Tauseef Ahmed not out ... 35
Iqbal Qasim c and b Sleep ... 16
Saleem Jaffer lbw Sleep ... 0
Extras (b-4 lb-4 w-1 nb-7) ... 12
Total (all out) ... 316

Wicketfall: 1-4 2-20 3-24 4-25 5-144 6-257 7-258 8-267 9-316

Bowling: Reid 31-8-92-3, Dodemaide 34-6-87-4, Waugh 11-3-36-0, Sleep 5-5-24-2, May 19-3-58-1, Border 6-1-11-0.

AUSTRALIA 1st innings:
D. Boon b Mudassar Nazar ... 13
G. Marsh b Tauseef Ahmed ... 51
D. Jones lbw Abdul Qadir ... 16
G. Wood lbw Saleem Jaffer ... 32
A. Dodemaide not out ... 5
A. Border not out ... 9
Extras (b-4 lb-4 w-1 nb-7) ... 11
Total (four wickets) ... 128

Wicketfall: 1-24 2-65 3-122 4-122

To bat: S. Waugh, T. May, L. Healy, B. Reid, P. Sleep.
Bowling: Saleem Jaffer 14-5-26-1, Mudassar Nazar 8-1-20-1, Abdul Qadir 15-4-38-1, Tauseef Ahmed 10-3-22-1, Iqbal Qasim 4-1-14-0.

Al Wazzan and Falah prepare for 4th round

TAREQ AL WAZZAN and Eid Falah have started preparing for the fourth round of the Kuwait National Championship, scheduled for Friday, Sept 30.

Both the Marlboro drivers need a win in this one-stage event if they are to stake a claim for this year's title. Both of them have been dogged by bad luck which has left quite a drift of the top-placed drivers.

Al Wazzan has finished only one of the three rallies this season, in second place to rival Ahmed Al Hilal. His distinctive Range Rover suffered a broken axle in the International Rally while electrical problems pushed him out of the third round of the championship on the very first stage of the day.

Preference
Wazzan is certain that these problems now lie behind him, and will be driving the Range Rover in preference to his Toyota Celica rally car, as this event calls for a strong suspension. "I think we should do well in this event," said Wazzan, who will be partnered as usual by his experienced co-driver Khaled Khalifa.

Currently Wazzan is lying joint eighth, but this year's point system makes any reading of the places ambiguous. KTMSD decided to have an extra long



Falah (left) and Toni Samia.

season running from January 1988 to April 1989, and two of the events cannot be counted towards the final total, including the points from one international.

This means that Wazzan can drop the two events in which mechanical problems prevented him from finishing.

Eid Falah has experienced similar problems, and is currently in fifth place. In the first rally of the season he drove his Opel Ascona, but a blown engine left him unable to finish the rally. Further mechanical problems in the Kuwait International Rally kept him back in tenth place, but he won the last local rally in his Zayani backed and built Range Rover.

With the championship leader Josef Miskulnig not participating, and Kuwait's fastest drivers already lying behind him in the tables, a win on Friday would give Falah a good chance of taking his first championship title. "I want to win the champion-

ship, but first I want to win this rally," said the 27-year-old driver.

As always, the two Marlboro drivers will face stiff competition, not only from Ahmed Al Hilal, Mohammed Al Hussein and Ahmed Al Zafiri, but also from each other. "There can only be one winner, but I think we can take first and second places between us," commented Toni Samia, Marlboro team manager.

There is only one stage in the rally, a 14km route through the Doha and Khawast areas, and this will be driven 6 times before the cars return to the KT Club.

Standings in National Championship after 3 rounds:
1. Josef Miskulnig
2. Tareq Alwan
3. Faez Chahab
4. Ahmed Al Nasser
5. Eid Falah
6. Nouri Al Hassan
7. Ahmed Al Hilal
8. Tareq Al Wazzan and Mohd Al Hussein
10. Jassal Marafi

Prost takes GP pole position

ESTORIL, Portugal, Sept 24, (Reuters): Alain Prost proved he remains a threat to Ayrton Senna's ambition of winning the World Drivers' Championship by narrowly outpacing his McLaren teammate today to take pole position for tomorrow's Portuguese Grand Prix motor race.

The Frenchman, shrugging off a miserable day yesterday, set a qualifying lap record of one minute 17.411 seconds to take the prime position on the starting grid for the 18th time in his career, but only the second time this season.

Prost's only previous pole this year was at the French Grand Prix in July.

Senna, for whom victory tomorrow would be a record eighth this season and virtually secure him the title, had to be content with the second-fastest time in another thrilling session

dominated by the two McLaren drivers.

He finished with a best time of 1:17.869 — just four-tenths of a second slower than Prost, but enough to end his run of four consecutive poles and put hopes of a record 11th this season on ice.

Hungry
The McLaren duo, who traded fastest laps throughout the session like hungry boxers, were the only drivers to break the one minute 18 second barrier.

Italian Ivan Capelli, in a March, was third quickest and the fastest normally-aspirated qualifier.

He will share the second row with Austrian Gerhard Berger in a Ferrari.

Brazilian Mauricio Gugelmin in the second March was fifth quickest ahead of Briton Nigel Mansell, who proved he had lost none of his aggression in his

Williams despite a two-race absence due to illness.

In warm and dry conditions at the twisting Estoril circuit only two of the 30 drivers — world champion Nelson Piquet of Brazil in a Lotus and Italian Stefano Modena in a Eurobrun — were unable to improve on yesterday's times.

Prost quickly overhauled Senna's overnight provisional pole time only for the Brazilian to respond with an even quicker lap.

Senna then began to improve his time before Prost produced his flier to take pole after 40 minutes of the hour-long session before poor organisation caused a hold-up.

The delay occurred when track marshalls took 10 minutes to remove Gabriele Tarquini's Coloni car from a sand trap after he had spun off.

No equipment appeared to be ready to pull the car out so the

marshalls removed it manually to avoid danger to other drivers.

Prost was delighted with the great improvement in his car's performance since yesterday.

"I had a good lap. Maybe it was not the best I could have done but if I had improved it could only have been by a tiny margin so I didn't bother to try again," he said.

"The car and engine were both working well and I hope they will remain that way for the race."

Problems
Senna said: "I never got a chance of a clear lap on my second set of tyres and I had problems with the instruments playing up."

With 10 of the leading cars separated by little more than one second in the qualifying session, a tight closely-contested race is in prospect behind the McLaren duo.

Ballesteros steps up bid for 5th title

STUTTGART, West Germany, Sept 24, (Reuters): Severiano Ballesteros stepped up his bid for a fifth European tour golf win in his last six starts by making up a three-stroke overnight deficit to seize a share of the lead in the West German Masters today.

British Open champion Ballesteros fired a third round 68 at the Solitude Club to become joint leader on a six-under-par total of 210 with Ireland's Des Smyth and Sweden's Mats Lanner, who both returned 71.

Collected
The trio are one shot ahead of Spain's Jose-Maria Olazabal (70), runner-up to Ballesteros in last weekend's Lancome Trophy in Paris, with Zimbabwe's Mark McNulty (71), American Tom Purtzer (72) and Britain's David Feherty (70) a stroke further back.

Ballesteros, three strokes behind joint pacemakers Smyth and Lanner at the start of the day, collected six birdies despite the windy conditions. Three putts on the bumpy greens twice cost him strokes but he holed putts of 18 feet and 20 feet for two of his birdies.

Top players to take part in tennis tourney

KUWAIT'S top tennis players are expected to take part in the 3rd Open Tennis Tournament, organised by the Ministry of Electricity and Water. The tournament starts tomorrow and will finish on Oct 7.

Several clubs and local companies have entered this event. The organisers have announced that about 25 to 30 matches will be held on the first day at the Ramada Al Salam Hotel.

The organisers have asked all players to check the schedule for the tournament. The tournament is being held under the patronage of the Minister of Electricity and Water, Hmoud Al Rqabah.

Woodforde stretches Agassi

LOS ANGELES, Sept 24, (Reuters): America's past and present number ones, John McEnroe and Andre Agassi, will square off in the semifinals of the \$415,000 Los Angeles Grand Prix tennis tournament after quarterfinal victories yesterday.

Agassi, the top seed, defeated eighth-seeded Australian Mark Woodforde in three tempestuous sets that included an altercation between the players after Woodforde quarrelled with the umpire. Agassi won the match 2-67-56-3.

McEnroe, seeded third, demolished fifth-seeded fellow

American David Pate 6-2 6-3 in 67 minutes.

The 18-year-old Agassi dropped his serve twice as Woodforde, a left-hander who has twice beaten McEnroe this summer, served out the first set, at love, with a backhand crosscourt winner.

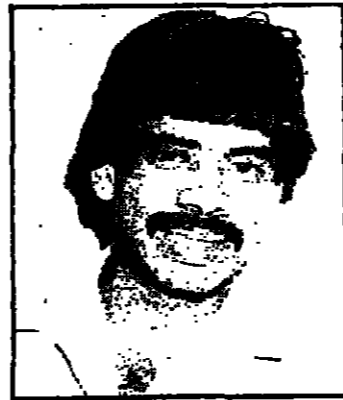
Control
Agassi trailed 0-2 in the second set and had little rhythm or control of his groundstrokes. But after Woodforde quarrelled with the umpire, Agassi reprimanded his opponent loudly on the court

and the match began to turn in the American's favour.

He brought the score back to 3-3 as Woodforde, whose strong suit is to serve and volley, made errors at the net. Agassi missed his first set point at 5-4 with an error on the return, but served it out at 6-5 with a backhand cross-court winner.

Agassi went out to a 3-0 lead in the third set, hitting winners from the baseline. Games went on serve until 5-3 when Agassi served out the match on his first match point as Woodforde hit a backhand long.

Jahangir to face Jansher in Open final



KARACHI, Pakistan, Sept 24, (Reuters): Australia's Chris Robertson took a game off Jahangir Khan today before succumbing to the world squash champion in the Pakistan Open semifinals.

Jahangir fought back in his usual relentless manner to win 12-15 10-15 11-15 8-8 and earn another showdown with his fellow Pakistani and arch-rival Jansher Khan in tomorrow's final.

Jansher, the defending champion and world number one, had an easier passage, disposing of fourth seed Umar Hayat Khan 15-7 15-5 15-7 in 30 minutes.

Performance
"This is the first time in six meetings that I have won a game from Jahangir," the third seeded Robertson said afterwards, pleased with his performance.

Jahangir was less happy, after making a series of mistakes in the first game, including hitting the tin seven times.

Injury-hit Liverpool thrash Southampton for second place

LONDON, Sept 24, (Reuters): Injury-hit Liverpool, allowing themselves the luxury of keeping striker Ian Rush on the substitutes' bench, moved smoothly into second spot in the English First Division today, replacing Southampton after beating them 3-1 away.

Fourth at the start of the day, the League champions leap-frogged Southampton and First Division newcomers Millwall who dropped two points with a hard fought 2-2 draw at surprise leaders Norwich.

Arsenal, Everton and Derby, on the heels of the top four, were all beaten and it was left to Manchester United, comfortable 2-0 winners over West Ham, to take fifth place.

Shrugged
Liverpool, with seven first team regulars unavailable, shrugged off the handicap with a highly competent display that spells another long hard season for the rest of the division.

John Aldridge, the man who keeps Rush idle, tapped them into a 31st minute lead and although a penalty from Derek Statham three minutes later put Southampton back on terms, a 47th minute goal from England striker Peter Beardsley and a penalty from Jan Molby six minutes from time clinched Liverpool's points.

Norwich led Millwall 1-0 early in the second half thanks to a goal from Ian Crook but Millwall

hit back within a minute through Tony Cascarino.

Robert Rosario made it 2-1 for the leaders after 73 minutes but once more, within a minute, Millwall levelled, this time through Kevin O'Callaghan.

Norwich now have 13 points from five games after surrendering their 100 per cent record, two clear of Liverpool and Millwall and three ahead of Southampton and Manchester United.

Manchester United found struggling West Ham to their taste and goals from Peter Davenport (37th) and Mark Hughes (70th), his first since rejoining the side, settled the issue.

Arsenal, hoping to put behind them last week's incident in which a Southampton opponent had his jaw broken, found Sheffield Wednesday in uncompromising mood after two defeats and lost 2-1.

Arsenal goalkeeper John Lukic saved an 18th-minute penalty but failed to cope with Gary Megson's 31st-minute strike. Alan Smith equalized in the 50th minute but Nigel Pearson grabbed the winner for the home side three minutes later.

Everton were surprisingly beaten 2-0 at home by Luton with goals from David Oldfield (74th) and Kingsley Black 10 minutes later, while Derby lost 1-0 at home to Queen's Park Rangers, a 10th-minute goal from Mark Stein dividing the two teams.



Hughes: scored for United

There was much more excitement at Tottenham where Terry Venables' team scored their first success of the season with a dramatic 3-2 win over newly-promoted Middlesbrough.

The visitors led 2-1 with six minutes to go but then substitute David Howells and Terry Fen-

wick, with a penalty in injury time, pulled the game out of the fire for Tottenham.

At the foot of the table Robert Lee's spectacular late goal salvaged a deserved point for 10-man Charlton in a 2-2 draw at home to Newcastle.

Lee popped up on the edge of the area five minutes from time to

smash home an unstoppable half-volley just when Newcastle looked like cashing in on Paul Miller's sending-off and registering their first win of the season.

Newcastle had trailed to a Paul Williams 44th-minute goal but struck back in the second half to lead through Darren Jackson (73rd) and substitute Brian Tinnion (77th).

The point Newcastle gained was enough to lift them off the bottom of the table. The spot is now occupied by FA Cup holders Wimbledon, who lost 1-0 at home to Coventry.

Not even the return of controversial, tough-tackling defender Vinny Jones could stop Gary Bannister's 38th-minute winner.

In Scotland, champions Celtic's miserable start continued when they were beaten 1-0 at lowly Dundee. A Tommy Coyne goal in the 28th-minute separated the sides.

Results
England Division One
Aston Villa 1 Notts Forest 1
Charlton 2 Newcastle 2
Derby 0 Q.P.R. 1
Everton 0 Luton 2
Manchester U. 2 West Ham 0
Norwich 2 Arsenal 1
Sheffield Wed 1 Southampton 1
Tottenham 3 Middlesbrough 3
Wimbledon 0 Coventry 1

England Division Two
Barnsley 1 Man. City 2
Blackburn 3 Birmingham 0
Bournemouth 2 Oxford 1
Ipswich 1 Bradford 1
Leeds 0 Chelsea 2
Leicester 2 Watford 2

Oldham 2 Hull 2
Plymouth 1 West Brom. 1
Portsmouth 1 Crystal Palace 1
Shrewsbury 0 Sunderland 0
Swindon 3 Brighton 0
Walsall 1 Stoke 2

English Division Three
Aldershot 0 Bolton 3
Barnet 1 Sheffield U. 4
Bristol City 0 Port Vale 1
Bury 0 Mansfield 1
Chester 3 Huddersfield 0
Chesterfield 0 Blackpool 2
Fulham 1 Wigan 1
Gillingham 0 Reading 0
Northampton 1 Bristol R. 2
Notts County 0 Preston 0
Swansea 2 Wolves 5
Southend 0 Cardiff 0

English Division Four
Bury 2 Rochester 0
Carlisle 0 Rotherham 2
Doncaster 2 Wrexham 2
Exeter 2 Scunthorpe 2
Grimsby 1 Rochdale 3
Hartlepool 1 Cambridge U. 2
Lincoln 2 Hereford 0
Peterborough 0 York 0
Scarborough 5 Torquay 2

Scottish Premier Division
Aberdeen 1 Hearts 0
Dundee 1 Celtic 0
Ribeira 1 Hamilton 0
Motherwell 1 Dundee U. 2
Rangers 2 St Mirren 1

Scottish Division One
Airdrie 5 Patrick 1
Ayr 2 St Johnstone 1
Clyde 1 Falkirk 2
Dunfermline 3 Kilmarnock 0
Dyfar 1 Raith 0
Meadowbank 0 Clydebank 0
Morton 1 Queen of S. 0

Scottish Division Two
Albion 1 Queen's Park 1
Dumbarton 1 Alloa 0
East Fife 0 Arbroath 0
East Stirling 4 Brechin 3
Montrose 4 Stirling 2
Stirling 2 Cowdenbeath 3

In the men's division Al Qabandi are at the top with the Hatid Ligaya second and 300 Club third.

In the women's division, Far East Restaurant occupy top spot followed by Magnolia and Kay.

Waldegard ahead

NICOSIA, Cyprus, Sept 24, (AP): Nearly half the 80 cars in the Cyprus international rally were out of the running today midway through the 3-day event that will decide the European championship.

Bjorn Waldegard of Sweden, and co-driver Fred Gallagher of Britain, fronted the surviving entries in their Celica Turbo with a 1 minute, 37-second edge after barreling into the lead late Friday.

Carlsson wins

GENEVA, Sept 24, (Reuters): Top seeded Kent Carlsson of Sweden extended his winning streak with a 6-2 6-2 demolition of Horacio de la Pena of Argentina in the semifinals of the Geneva Grand Prix tennis tournament today.

Warning triumphs

ASCOT, England, Sept 24, (Reuters): Warning ridden by Paddy Eddery, produced a devastating performance to win the group one Queen Elizabeth II Stakes by five lengths today.